

## GEOTECHNICAL EVALUATION REPORT

CARTER ROAD SLIDE  
CLEVELAND, OHIO

SME Project Number: 076822.27  
March 29, 2019





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March 29, 2019

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*Via E-mail:* [tboyer@city.cleveland.oh.us](mailto:tboyer@city.cleveland.oh.us)

RE: Geotechnical Evaluation Report  
Carter Road Slide  
Cleveland, Ohio  
SME Project No. 076822.27

Dear Mr. Boyer:

We have completed the geotechnical evaluation for the Carter Road Slide in Cleveland, Ohio. The attached report presents the results of our field and laboratory testing, stability analysis, interpretation of the data, and our preliminary stability recommendations.

We appreciate the opportunity to work with you on this project. If you have questions, please call.

Sincerely,

**SME**

Brendan P. Lieske, PE  
Project Engineer

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of the geotechnical evaluation for the Carter Road Slide in Cleveland, Ohio. We performed this evaluation in general accordance with our scope and budget emailed to the City of Cleveland on November 12, 2018, and authorized by Tom Boyer, Design Section Chief Division of Engineering and Construction, as Work Task #27 on November 13, 2018.

SME received the following information which was used in the evaluation and preparation of this report:

- Portions of a geotechnical report by BBC&M, dated 2008 for the Columbus Road Lift Bridge.
- A Geotechnical Report for the Scranton Road/Carter Road Improvements, prepared by Solar Testing Laboratories and dated July 9, 2015.
- A Slope Stability Evaluation for Carter Road Subdivision No. 1, prepared by Solar Testing Laboratories and dated July 15, 2016.
- Boring Logs for the Lake Link Trail, prepared by Timmerman Geotechnical Group and dated September 2013.
- Soil boring logs for Lake Link Trail Phase 1 by Solar Testing Laboratories dated 2016.
- A Geotechnical Subsurface Exploration Report for the Carter Road Improvement Project, prepared by PSI and dated May 22, 2014.
- A Geotechnical Subsurface Exploration Report for the Scranton Road Improvement Project, prepared by PSI and dated May 28, 2014.
- A Geotechnical Exploration Report for the Sheet Pile Wall for the Scranton/Carter Road Rehabilitation project, prepared by Solar Testing Laboratories and dated August 20, 2015.

Boring information from Solar's July 9, 2015, Geotechnical Report and their July 15, 2016, Slope Stability Evaluation along with BBC&M's boring logs were incorporated with information from our study to develop the subsurface profile used in our analysis. To provide clarity and ease of reading, we have reproduced the relevant Solar and BBCM boring logs into the SME log format. The locations of the relevant Solar and BBC&M borings are shown on the attached Boring Location Plan and slope stability profile.

### 1.1 SITE CONDITIONS AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project site is located in the area of Carter Road east of the Columbus Road lift bridge. A slide has occurred between the north curb line of Carter Road and the bank of the Cuyahoga River. We have illustrated the approximate location of the visible scarp on our boring location plan. Carter Road sits below a slope to the south and above the river. The top of the upper slope has a surface elevation of 685 feet. Carter road is near elevation 611 feet and the river's edge is near elevation 569 feet. The depth of the river is roughly estimated at 28 feet. This results in a total slope height of about 144 feet. Carter road is about 70 feet above the river bottom.

The portion of land between the road and river carries a Cleveland Metroparks multipurpose trail. The trail is part of the Metroparks long range plan to connect the existing trails from the south, up through the Irishtown Bend area, connecting to Lake Erie, and is a key feature in the trail system. There is also a storm water outlet that collects surface waters from Carter Road and water from a hydrodynamic separator intended to treat storm water from future development along the south side of Carter Road. The storm water discharge point has been protected with rock channel protection to minimize erosion.

**Our goal for this geotechnical evaluation is to better define the geology beneath Carter Road and perform a preliminary slope stability analysis to help determine the cause of the slide, which can ultimately be used to design a repair solution that will stabilize the slope.**

## **2. EVALUATION PROCEDURES**

### **2.1 FIELD EXPLORATION**

We completed two Standard Penetration Test (SPT) borings at the site between November 19 and 27, 2018. B-1 was extended to a final depth of 164 feet below existing grade, which included 20 feet of rock coring. B-2 was extended to a final depth 80 feet. In addition to split-barrel samples, we also collected seven thin-walled Shelby tube samples. A slope inclinometer tube was set into the bedrock at a depth of 160 feet below existing grade within the borehole at B-1.

SME determined the number, depths, and locations of the borings. We marked the boring locations by measuring offsets from existing site features referencing them to known monument pins in the street. We measured the relative ground surface elevation at each boring location, as well as multiple points along the slope to provide data to develop our slope stability profile. We referenced one of the monument pins on Carter Road as a benchmark. The approximate benchmark, ground surface elevations, and boring locations are shown on the attached *Boring Location Plan*.

The borings were drilled and sampled in general accordance with ASTM Standards. The borehole at B-2 was backfilled with a bentonite and cement slurry.

### **2.2 LABORATORY TESTING**

Samples from the borings were taken to our laboratory, where they were visually classified in general accordance with ASTM D-2488. We determined the moisture contents on portions of the soil samples obtained and performed hand penetrometer and tenvane shear tests on selected cohesive samples. We also performed three direct shear tests on selected Shelby tube samples and two uniaxial compressive strength tests on selected rock core samples. The rock cores have been photographed and are presented in Appendix A.

The boring logs and laboratory test results are included in Appendix A. Explanations of symbols and terms used on the boring logs are provided on the Boring Log Terminology sheet included in Appendix A.

## **3. SUBSURFACE CONDITIONS**

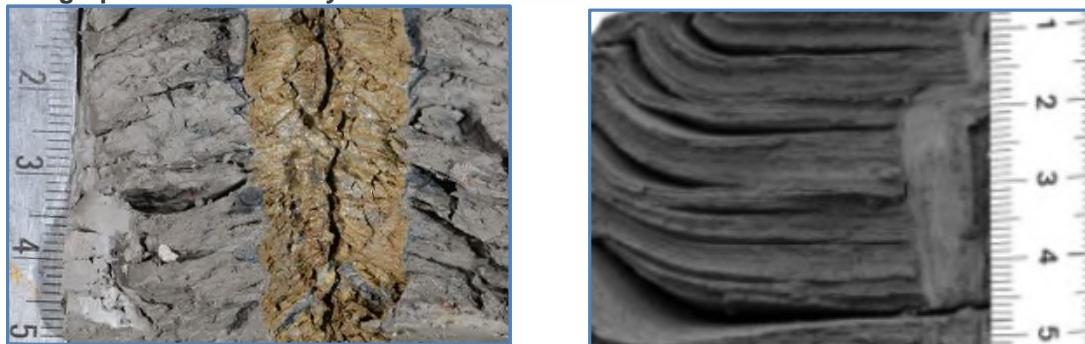
### **3.1 SOIL CONDITIONS**

The soil profile consists of fill over predominantly sands and silts (Alluvium and terrace deposits) over interbedded deposits of harder silts and clays (glacial tills). Shale bedrock is encountered near elevation 467 feet, approximately 142 feet below the surface of Carter Road.

Within our borings, we encountered 5 inches of topsoil at the surface followed by 14 ½ feet (B-2) to 28 feet (B-1) of fill. The fill consists of sand with varying amount of gravel, clay, bricks, slag, concrete, cinders, and organics. Below the fill, we encountered very loose to loose sands and silts to about 43 feet (elevation 567 feet) at B-1 and 30 feet (elevation 580 feet) at B-2.

Below the sands and silts, we encountered a medium stiff to stiff layer of varved (see description and photographs below) silty/lean clay, which we've identified as the weak (low shear strength) layer within this subsurface profile. This layer extends from a depth of about 42 to 61 feet (elevation 567 to 548 feet). Direct shear test results indicate that soils within this layer have a post-peak friction angle of about 17°, which is low. Our slope stability analyses indicate that this layer is the likely failure plane and our inclinometer readings, also presented in the Appendix A, confirmed movement within this layer. The condition at Carter Road is very similar, if not the same as, the failing slope conditions at the Irishtown Bend where this weak lacustrine clay layer also exists.

### Photographs of Varved Clay – Scale in Millimeters



Carter Road Sample

Typical Image of Varved Clay

Varved clays are lacustrine deposits (soil deposited through water onto lake bottoms) of thinly bedded layers of silt and clay. Most of the lacustrine deposits in our area are post glacial deposits that were formed after the glaciers left our area. They are typically found over the top of glacial till deposits as is the case at Carter Road. The layering occurs between seasons when lakes goes from unfrozen to frozen and the water becomes calmer beneath this ice. The silt particles are larger and heavier and settle to the lake bottom when the water is open or unfrozen. Once the lake freezes, and the water turbulence calms down, the smaller clay particles settle to the bottom. Each silt/clay layer is like the ring of a tree and represent one season. The thicknesses of the layers vary depending on sediment load and how long the lake is frozen over. The layering in this case does not necessarily equal one year of time but only one cycle of freezing. Not all lacustrine clays are varved. Portions of the weak lacustrine clay layers sampled in our borings did not show varving.

At a depth of about 61 feet (elevation 548 feet, below the weak clay layer), we encountered glacial till consisting of very stiff to hard lean/silty clay and dense silt. At a depth of about 142 feet (elevation 467 feet), we encountered medium to moderately hard shale.

The nearby uphill Solar boring logs indicate a similar profile in the zones that overlap our borings. Above our borings, the logs show sandy fill from the surface to a depth ranging from 6½ to 23½ feet. Below the fill, these borings show loose or better sands and silts to their termination depths. The deepest subsurface information from the Solar borings ends at elevation 584 feet which is above the identified weak clay layer in our borings.

The soil profile included on the boring logs is a generalized description of the conditions encountered. The stratification depths shown on the boring logs indicate a zone of transition from one soil type to another and do not show exact depths of change from one soil type to another. The soil descriptions are based on visual classification of the soils encountered. Soil conditions may vary between or away from the boring locations.

## 3.2 GROUNDWATER CONDITIONS

Groundwater was not observed in our bore holes during our field exploration once we switched from hollow-stem augers to mud rotary drilling methods. For our slope stability profile, we used groundwater information from the Solar boring logs along with our moisture content test results and visual observations of the split-barrel and thin-wall Shelby tube samples which indicate groundwater between elevation 594 feet and 607 feet. Hydrostatic groundwater levels should be expected to fluctuate throughout the year, based on variations in precipitation, evaporation, run-off, and other factors. The groundwater conditions indicated by the borings represent conditions at the time the readings were taken. The groundwater levels at the time of construction may vary from those conditions noted on the boring logs.

## 4. ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 4.1 INCLINOMETER READINGS

As previously stated, a slope inclinometer tube was installed at B-1 for long term monitoring of the slope in the failed area. Inclinometer readings from this slope tube help define the slip plane within the slide, the rate of movement, and can be used to validate our model of the slope. On December 7, 2018, we performed a set of two baseline readings of this inclinometer tube. Since this baseline reading, we have returned to the site twice for additional readings, on December 21, 2018, and on February 6, 2019. A cumulative displacement plot of these readings is included in Appendix A. We have budgeted for two additional inclinometer readings in the future. If visible movement of the slope is observed, please notify SME and we will perform an inclinometer reading right away. If no movement is observed in the near future, we recommend waiting until March or April 2019 to perform the next reading.

Inclinometer readings at B-1 indicate displacement in the positive A-axis direction (toward the river) at depth range of about 50 to 60 feet below existing grade (elevation 560 to 550 feet). This displacement aligns with the weak clay layer that we identified in our borings and direct shear tests.

### 4.2 SLOPE STABILITY ANALYSIS

To develop the surface profile for our slope stability analysis, we measured the relative ground surface elevation at each boring location, as well as multiple points along the slope. We combined the results of our survey with the Cuyahoga County Topographic map to develop our slope profile shown on our *Boring Location Plan*. We used soils information from our borings and the relevant Solar borings to develop the subsurface profile for our analysis. Soil properties used in our slope stability analysis are listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Stability Analysis Soil Properties

Soil Description	Unit Weight (lbs/ft <sup>3</sup> )	Cohesion (psf)	Friction Angle (deg.)
Fill	128	0	31
Very Loose Sand/Silt	138	0	35
Medium Dense Silt (Silt 1)	140*	0	35*
Medium Stiff Varved, Lean/Silty Clay (CL 1)	122*	0	16.6*
Stiff Lean Clay (CL 2)	130*	0	29*
Very Stiff Lean Clay (Till 1)	138	0	31
Dense Silt (Silt 2)	142	0	35
Hard Lean Clay (Till 2)	143	0	32
Shale	145	1500	40

\*Indicates properties determined by laboratory testing. All other properties are estimated.

Our evaluation indicates that failures on this slope are occurring within the weak lacustrine clay layer between elevations 580 feet and 548 feet. This clay layer does not possess sufficient strength to resist movement of the slope. This slope is also located on the outside bank of a bend in the Cuyahoga River, which is typically exposed to a significant amount of erosion due to the hydraulics of the river and the turbulence generated by passing and turning ships. **The river is essentially eroding the toe of the slope at the low strength layer, leaving the slope susceptible to failure.** There is a failed bulk head along the river bank that is contributing to the slope movement.

We completed stability analyses using the residual shear strength of the weak clay layer, since we believe this to be more representative of the existing conditions. By adjusting the limits of our analysis, we evaluated failures at the toe of the slope (where the scarp is presently forming), the middle of the slope, and globally from the top of the slope. The results of these analyses are included in Appendix A, titled “Down Slope\_Non-circular”, “Mid Slope\_Non-circular”, and “Top Slope\_Non-circular”, respectively. The results of each of these analyses indicates a non-circular failure with a Factor of Safety (FS) of about 1, which indicates a critical slope. By standard convention for stability, the FS should be at least 1.3 where there are no structures on or near the slope, and 1.5 where there are structures.

## 4.3 PRELIMINARY SLOPE REPAIR RECOMMENDATIONS

Based upon the results of our slope analysis, the depth of the failure plane below Carter Road, and the intention to focus solely on protecting Carter Road and the Cleveland Metroparks multipurpose trail, the following stabilization approaches that should be considered are presented below. North of and south of Carter Road, additional localized stabilization will likely be required by the land owners if they wish to prevent future slope failures. **Without supplemental stabilization work, these slopes have a high probability of failure. The approaches described below will not prevent failures from occurring north or south of Carter Road, but are intended to stabilize Carter Road and the Cleveland Metroparks trail.**

### 4.3.1 APPROACH 1 – RIVER’S EDGE BULKHEAD

The stabilizing effort for the slope begins at the river’s edge where nearby bulk head structures have failed over time. Because of the depth of the failure zone, 42 to 61 feet below Carter Road (see the Carter Road Section presented in Appendix A), a deep wall system toed into the underlying very stiff clay soils and tied back near its top by drilling anchors, will most likely be required. Such systems will stabilize the instability of Carter Road and could also improve the FS for the slopes above Carter Road. The wall height at the river’s edge would most likely be selected to help flatten the angle of the slope below Carter Road. This approach would preserve the most usable land space available for the Metroparks’ trail, provided a reasonable slope angle can be achieved.

The slope between the river and the bike path is currently at angle of about 1.7H: 1V, or steeper. Based on the estimated shear strength of these soils, this slope could exhibit additional failures, even after installing a bulkhead. To increase stability, the slope should be regraded to a flatter angle or reinforced if the steeper angle needs to be preserved. This could be accomplished by raising the top of the bulkhead, moving the crest of the slope closer to the bike path (installing a guard rail for safety), or a combination of systems.

### 4.3.2 APPROACH 2 – RETAINING WALL

We understand that the property between the river and the Metroparks’ trail is privately owned; therefore, a river’s edge approach may not be possible without the cooperation of the current property owner. A second approach would be to construct a wall, similar to the bulkhead, but higher up the slope, just north of the Metroparks’ trail. This would eliminate the need to work along the river bank but would do nothing to protect the shoreline from further erosion. The soil between the high wall and the river bank would be sacrificial. This solution could be used to adjust the bend in the river making it slightly more accommodating to the turning of larger ships. Similar to the bulkhead, this approach would likely consist of a deep wall system toed into the very stiff clay soils below the weak clay layer. Tiebacks anchors would likely be required for this wall too, but would be need to be more robust to account for the steeper installation angle if they must remain completely within the City’s right of way.

### **4.3.3 CONSIDERATIONS FOR BOTH APPROACHES**

The bulkhead or retaining wall should extend from the Columbus Road Bridge east to where the bike path crosses Carter Road. The exact limits and depth of the bulkhead should be determined during the evaluation phase. Preliminarily, we have included an approximate location of proposed bulkhead and retaining wall on the attached *Boring Location Plan*. We anticipate that sheet-piling, tangential drilled piers, or modified H-piling systems for the bulkhead or retaining wall need to be driven or drilled at least 20 feet into the underlying till layer, bearing at or below elevation 510 feet. This would result in sheet-piling or wall sections in excess of 75 feet for the bulkhead and 100 feet for the retaining wall. Both approaches would likely require tiebacks, installed at a downward angle to anchor within the glacial till layer or possibly the shale bedrock if higher capacities are needed, below elevation 530 feet.

The storm water discharge point, described in Section 1.1, is currently protected with a rock channel to minimize erosion. Both stabilization approaches will need to include maintaining this location. This may consist of a concrete headwall or buttress.

### **4.4 RECOMMENDED NEXT STEPS**

We recommend that the City of Cleveland initiates a design evaluation phase to develop plan concepts for the slope repair. This should include determining the following design information:

- The required embedment depth of sheet-piling or piers for the bulkhead wall or retaining wall.
- The appropriate length of the bulkhead wall or retaining wall.
- The required embedment depth for anchoring the tiebacks.
- Recommendations for regrading the slope between the bulkhead and the bike path, including the required slope angle to result in a FS of 1.3 to 1.5.

Prepared by:

Brendan P. Lieske, PE  
Project Engineer

Reviewed by:

John E. Dingeldein, PE  
Principal Consultant

## **APPENDIX A**

**BORING LOCATION PLAN**

**BORING LOG TERMINOLOGY**

**BORING LOGS BY SME**

**BORING LOGS BY OTHERS**

**ROCK CORE PHOTOGRAPH LOG**

**ROCK CORE COMPRESSIVE STRENGTH TEST RESULTS**

**DIRECT SHEAR TEST RESULTS**

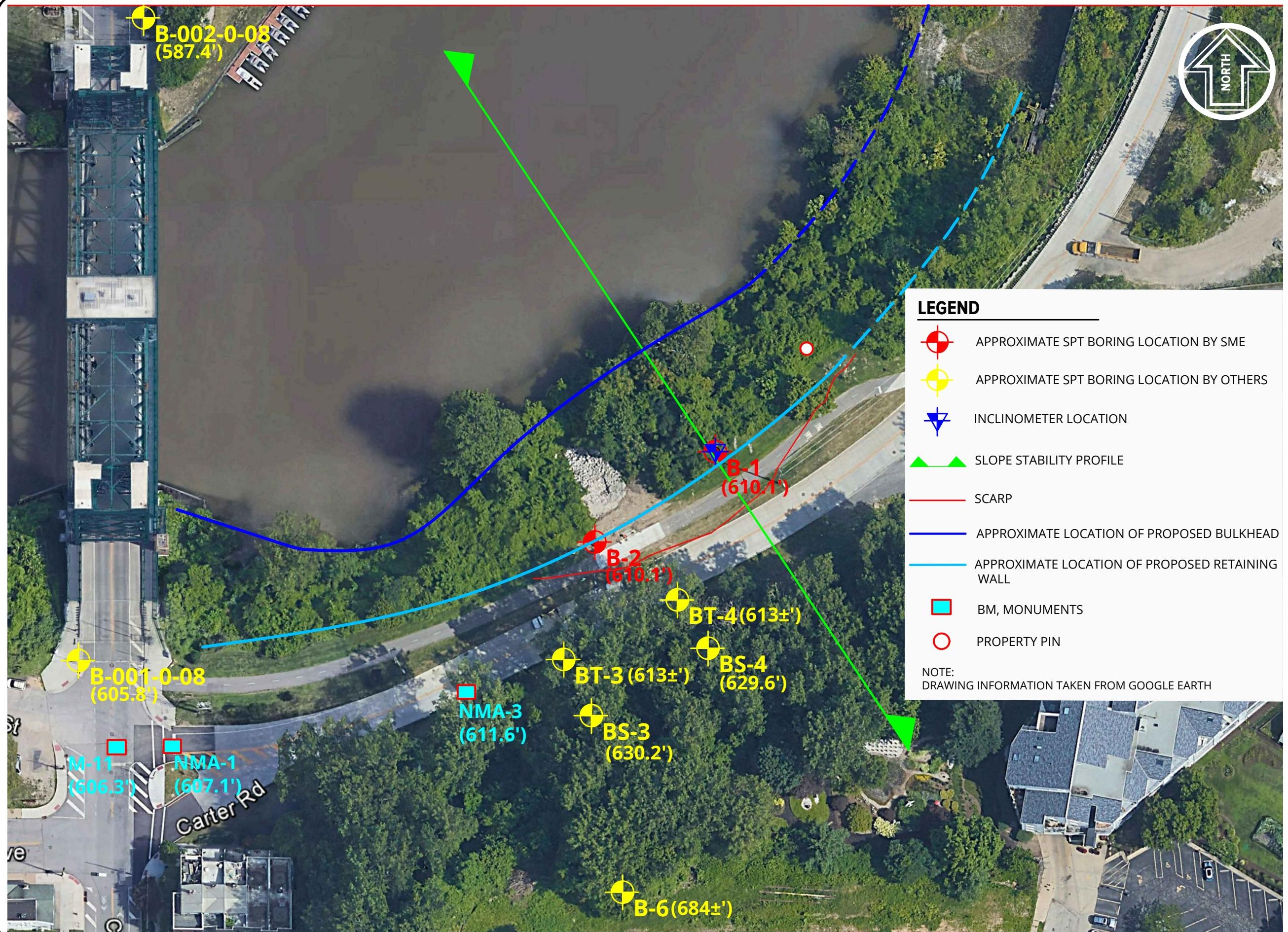
**SLOPE STABILITY PROFILE**

**SLOPE STABILITY ANALYSIS**

**INCLINOMETER PLOTS**

FILE LOCATION:

PLOT DATE:



No.	Revision Date
1	02/13/2019
2	03/26/2019
3	3/27/2019

Date **03/26/2019**

CADD **JF**

CHKD **BPL**

Scale **NTS**

Project **076822.27**

Figure No.  
**1**

# BORING LOG TERMINOLOGY

UNIFIED SOIL CLASSIFICATION AND SYMBOL CHART			
COARSE-GRAINED SOIL (more than 50% of material is larger than No. 200 sieve size.)			
GRANULAR SOILS			
GRAVEL More than 50% of coarse fraction larger than No. 4 sieve size			
	Clean Gravel (Less than 5% fines)	GW	Well-graded gravel; gravel-sand mixtures, little or no fines
		GP	Poorly-graded gravel; gravel-sand mixtures, little or no fines
	Gravel with fines (More than 12% fines)	GM	Silty gravel; gravel-sand-silt mixtures
		GC	Clayey gravel; gravel-sand-clay mixtures
SAND 50% or more of coarse fraction smaller than No. 4 sieve size			
	Clean Sand (Less than 5% fines)	SW	Well-graded sand; sand-gravel mixtures, little or no fines
		SP	Poorly graded sand; sand-gravel mixtures, little or no fines
	Sand with fines (More than 12% fines)	SM	Silty sand; sand-silt-gravel mixtures
		SC	Clayey sand; sand-clay-gravel mixtures
FINE-GRAINED SOIL (50% or more of material is smaller than No. 200 sieve size)			
SILT AND CLAY Liquid limit less than 50%	ML	ML	Inorganic silt; sandy silt or gravelly silt with slight plasticity
	CL	CL	Inorganic clay of low plasticity; lean clay, sandy clay, gravelly clay
	OL	OL	Organic silt and organic clay of low plasticity
SILT AND CLAY Liquid limit 50% or greater	MH	MH	Inorganic silt of high plasticity, elastic silt
	CH	CH	Inorganic clay of high plasticity, fat clay
	OH	OH	Organic silt and organic clay of high plasticity
HIGHLY ORGANIC SOIL	PT	PT	Peat and other highly organic soil

OTHER MATERIAL SYMBOLS			
			Topsoil      Void      Sandstone
			Asphalt      Glacial Till      Siltstone
			Base      Coal      Limestone
			Concrete      Shale      Fill

LABORATORY CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA			
GW	$C_U = \frac{D_{60}}{D_{10}}$ greater than 4; $C_C = \frac{D_{30}^2}{D_{10} \times D_{60}}$ between 1 and 3	$D_{60}$	$D_{30}^2$
GP	Not meeting all gradation requirements for GW		
GM	Atterberg limits below "A" line or PI less than 4		
GC	Atterberg limits above "A" line with PI greater than 7		
SW	$C_U = \frac{D_{60}}{D_{10}}$ greater than 6; $C_C = \frac{D_{30}^2}{D_{10} \times D_{60}}$ between 1 and 3	$D_{60}$	$D_{30}^2$
SP	Not meeting all gradation requirements for SW		
SM	Atterberg limits below "A" line or PI less than 4		
SC	Atterberg limits above "A" line with PI greater than 7		

Determine percentages of sand and gravel from grain-size curve. Depending on percentage of fines (fraction smaller than No. 200 sieve size), coarse-grained soils are classified as follows:

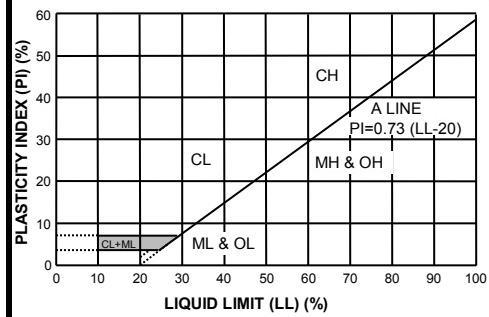
Less than 5 percent.....GW, GP, SW, SP  
More than 12 percent.....GM, GC, SM, SC  
5 to 12 percent.....Cases requiring dual symbols

- SP-SM or SW-SM (SAND with Silt or SAND with Gravel)
  - SP-SC or SW-SC (SAND with Clay or SAND with Clay and Gravel)
  - GP-GM or GW-GM (GRAVEL with Silt or GRAVEL with Silt and Sand)
  - GP-GC or GW-GC (GRAVEL with Clay or GRAVEL with Clay and Sand)
- If the fines are CL-ML:
- SC-SM (SILTY CLAYEY SAND or SILTY CLAYEY SAND with Gravel)
  - SM-SC (CLAYEY SILTY SAND or CLAYEY SILTY SAND with Gravel)
  - GC-GM (SILTY CLAYEY GRAVEL or SILTY CLAYEY GRAVEL with Sand)
  - GM-GC (CLAYEY SILTY GRAVEL or CLAYEY SILTY GRAVEL with Sand)

## PARTICLE SIZES

Boulders	- Greater than 12 inches
Cobbles	- 3 inches to 12 inches
Gravel- Coarse	- 3/4 inches to 3 inches
Fine	- No. 4 to 3/4 inches
Sand- Coarse	- No. 10 to No. 4
Medium	- No. 40 to No. 10
Fine	- No. 200 to No. 40
Silt and Clay	- Less than (0.0074 mm)

## PLASTICITY CHART



VISUAL MANUAL PROCEDURE	
When laboratory tests are not performed to confirm the classification of soils exhibiting borderline classifications, the two possible classifications would be separated with a slash, as follows:	
For soils where it is difficult to distinguish if it is a coarse or fine-grained soil:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SC/CL (CLAYEY SAND to Sandy LEAN CLAY)</li> <li>• SM/ML (SILTY SAND to SANDY SILT)</li> <li>• GC/CL (CLAYEY GRAVEL to Gravely LEAN CLAY)</li> <li>• GM/ML (SILTY GRAVEL to Gravely SILT)</li> </ul>	

- For soils where it is difficult to distinguish if it is sand or gravel, poorly or well-graded sand or gravel, silt or clay; or plastic or non-plastic silt or clay:
- SP/GP or SW/GW (SAND with Gravel to GRAVEL with Sand)
  - SC/GC (CLAYEY SAND with Gravel to CLAYEY GRAVEL with Sand)
  - SM/GM (SILTY SAND with Gravel to SILTY GRAVEL with Sand)
  - SW/SP (SAND or SAND with Gravel)
  - GP/GW (GRAVEL or GRAVEL with Sand)
  - SC/SM (CLAYEY to SILTY SAND)
  - GM/GC (SILTY to CLAYEY GRAVEL)
  - CL/ML (SILTY CLAY)
  - ML/CL (CLAYEY SILT)
  - CH/MH (FAT CLAY to ELASTIC SILT)
  - CL/CH (LEAN to FAT CLAY)
  - MH/ML (ELASTIC SILT to SILT)
  - OL/OH (ORGANIC SILT or ORGANIC CLAY)

DRILLING AND SAMPLING ABBREVIATIONS	
2ST	- Shelby Tube – 2" O.D.
3ST	- Shelby Tube – 3" O.D.
AS	- Auger Sample
GS	- Grab Sample
LS	- Liner Sample
NR	- No Recovery
PM	- Pressure Meter
RC	- Rock Core diamond bit. NX size, except where noted
SB	- Split Barrel Sample 1-3/8" I.D., 2" O.D., except where noted
VS	- Vane Shear
WS	- Wash Sample

OTHER ABBREVIATIONS	
WOH	- Weight of Hammer
WOR	- Weight of Rods
SP	- Soil Probe
PID	- Photo Ionization Device
FID	- Flame Ionization Device

DEPOSITIONAL FEATURES	
Parting	- as much as 1/16 inch thick
Seam	- 1/16 inch to 1/2 inch thick
Layer	- 1/2 inch to 12 inches thick
Stratum	- greater than 12 inches thick
Pocket	- deposit of limited lateral extent
Lens	- lenticular deposit
Hardpan/Till	- an unstratified, consolidated or cemented mixture of clay, silt, sand and/or gravel, the size/shape of the constituents vary widely
Lacustrine	- soil deposited by lake water
Mottled	- soil irregularly marked with spots of different colors that vary in number and size
Varved	- alternating partings or seams of silt and/or clay
Occasional	- one or less per foot of thickness
Frequent	- more than one per foot of thickness
Interbedded	- strata of soil or beds of rock lying between or alternating with other strata of a different nature

CLASSIFICATION TERMINOLOGY AND CORRELATIONS		
Cohesionless Soils		
Relative Density	N-Value (Blows per foot)	
Very Loose	0 to 4	
Loose	4 to 10	
Medium Dense	10 to 30	
Dense	30 to 50	
Very Dense	50 to 80	
Extremely Dense	Over 80	
Cohesive Soils		
Consistency	N-Value (Blows per foot)	Undrained Shear Strength (kips/ft <sup>2</sup> )
Very Soft	0 - 2	0.25 or less
Soft	2 - 4	0.25 to 0.50
Medium	4 - 8	0.50 to 1.0
Stiff	8 - 15	1.0 to 2.0
Very Stiff	15 - 30	2.0 to 4.0
Hard	> 30	4.0 or greater
Standard Penetration 'N-Value' = Blows per foot of a 140-pound hammer falling 30 inches on a 2-inch O.D. split barrel sampler, except where noted.		

PROJECT NAME: Carter Road Slide Geotechnical Analysis

PROJECT NUMBER: 076822.27

CLIENT: City of Cleveland

PROJECT LOCATION: Cleveland, Ohio

DATE STARTED: 11/20/18

COMPLETED: 11/27/18

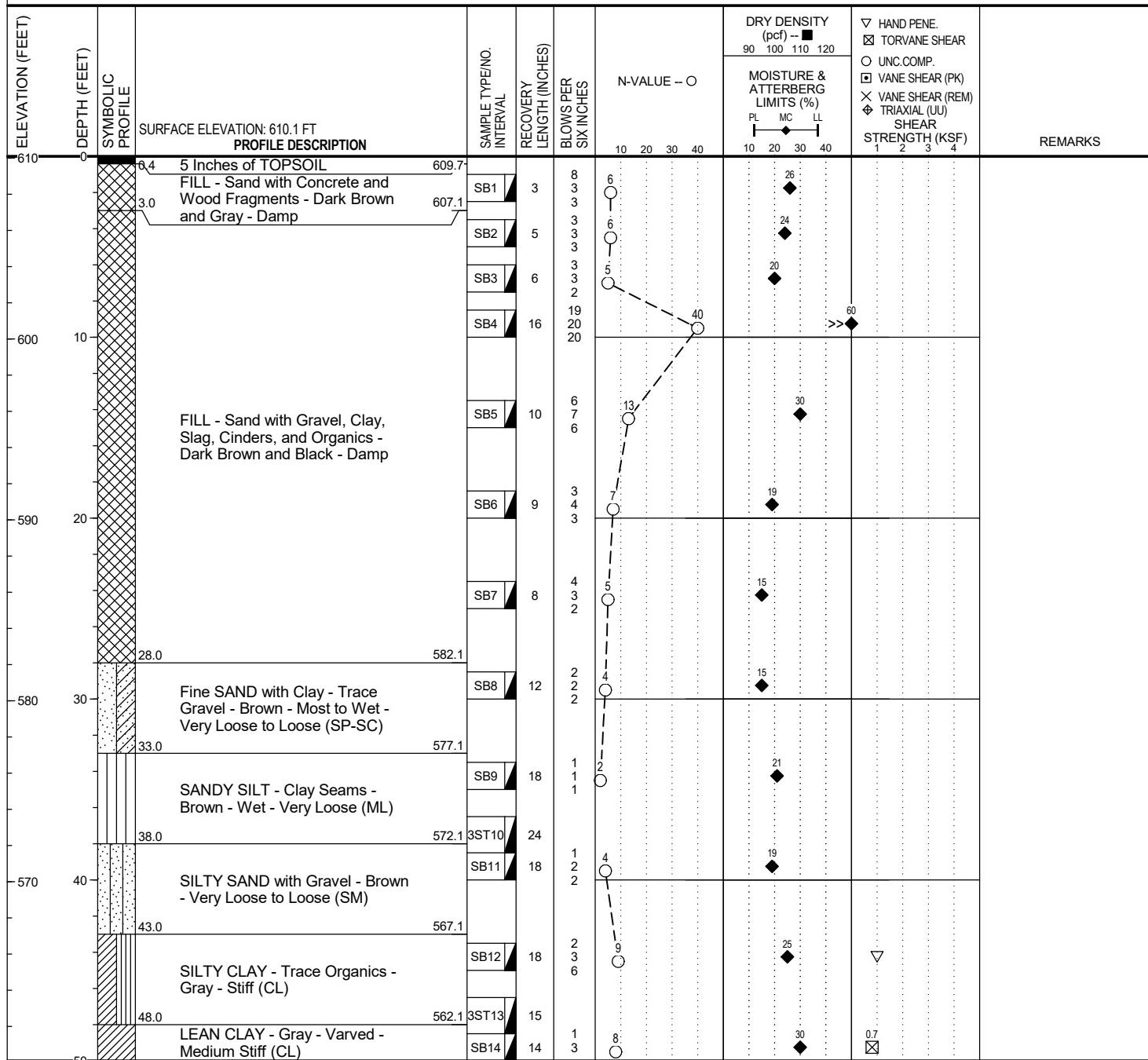
BORING METHOD: 4-1/4" Hollow Stem Auger and Mud Rotary

DRILLER: RH/RM

RIG NO.: 525-CME550X-ATV

LOGGED BY: JF

CHECKED BY: JED

**GROUNDWATER & BACKFILL INFORMATION**

GROUNDWATER WAS NOT ENCOUNTERED

BACKFILL METHOD: Inclinometer

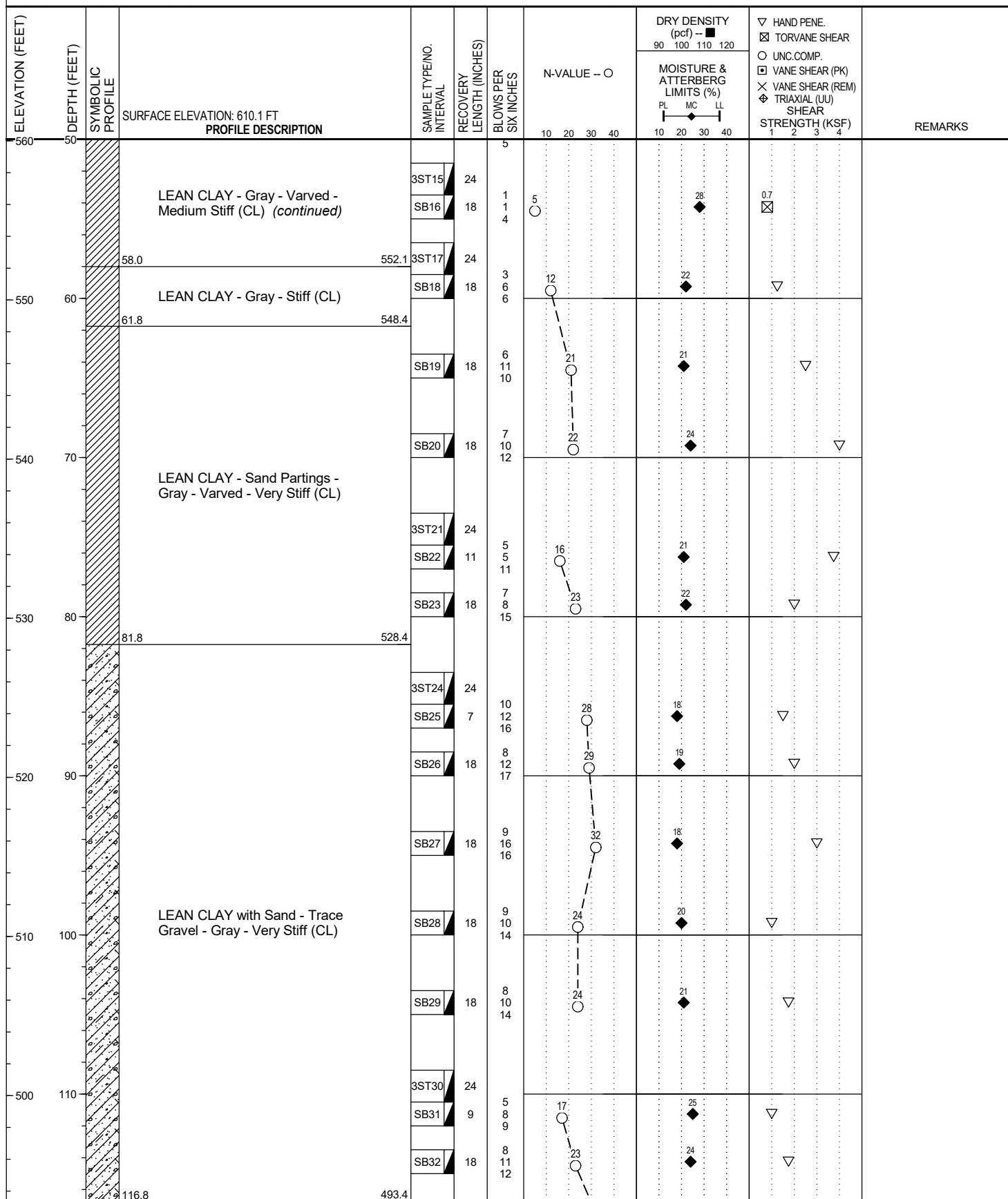
NOTES: 1. The indicated stratification lines are approximate. In situ, the transition between materials may be gradual.  
 2. Groundwater not observed due to mud rotary drilling method.

PROJECT NAME: Carter Road Slide Geotechnical Analysis

PROJECT NUMBER: 076822.27

CLIENT: City of Cleveland

PROJECT LOCATION: Cleveland, Ohio



(Continued Next Page)



BORING B-1

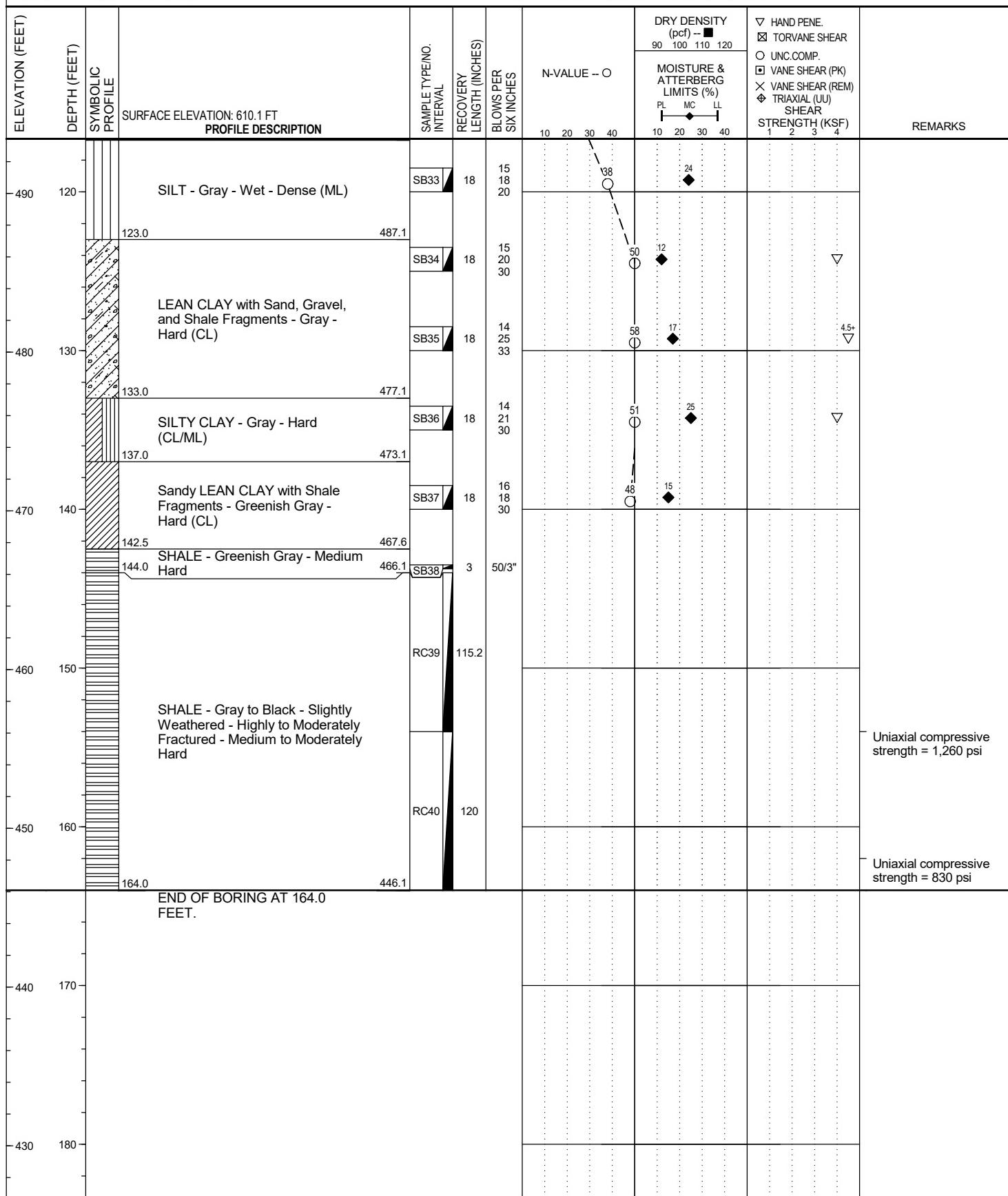
PAGE 3 OF 3

## **PROJECT NAME:** Carter Road Slide Geotechnical Analysis

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 076822.27

**CLIENT:** City of Cleveland

**PROJECT LOCATION:** Cleveland, Ohio



PROJECT NAME: Carter Road Slide Geotechnical Analysis

PROJECT NUMBER: 076822.27

CLIENT: City of Cleveland

PROJECT LOCATION: Cleveland, Ohio

DATE STARTED: 11/19/18

COMPLETED: 11/19/18

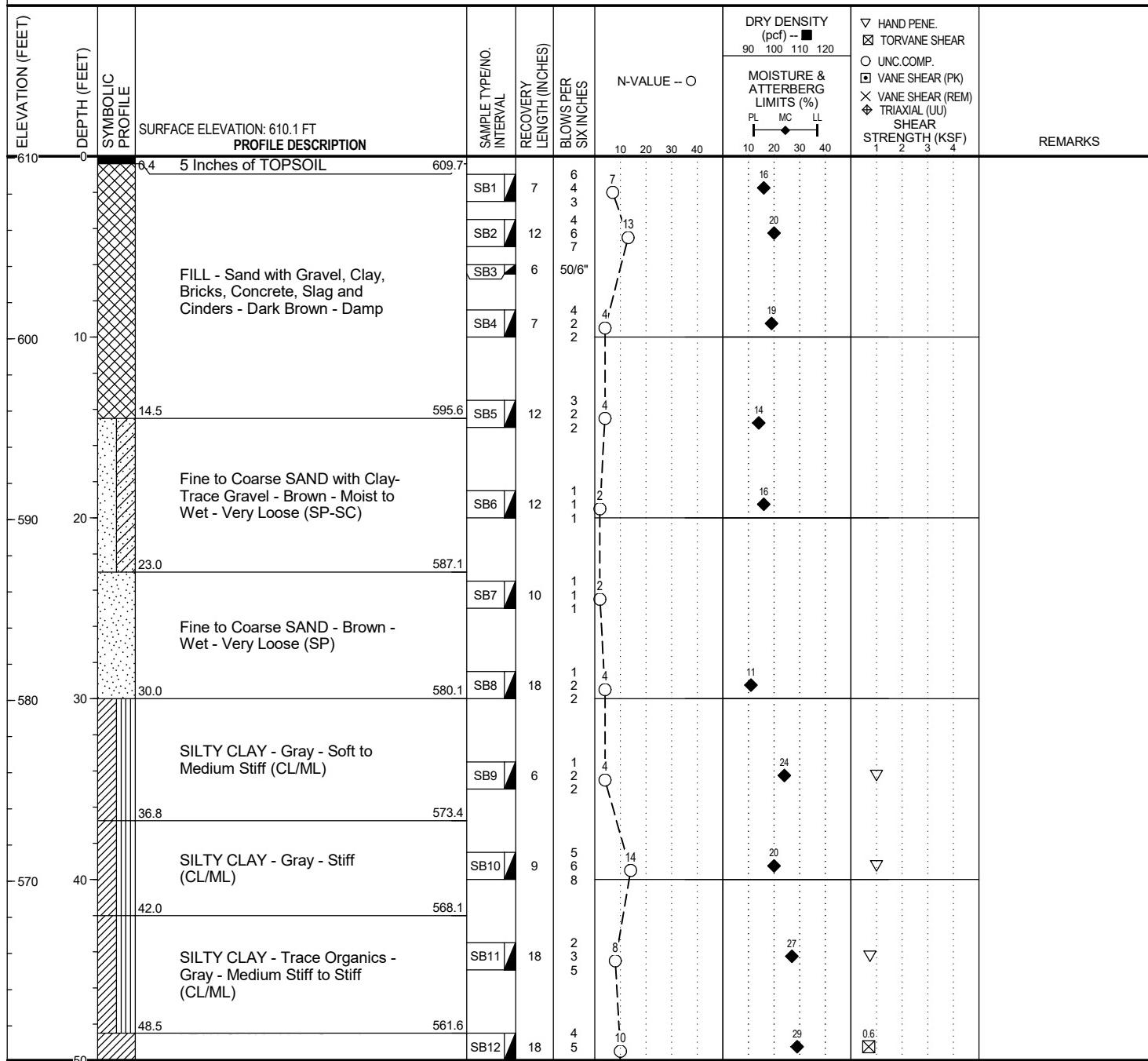
BORING METHOD: 4-1/4" Hollow Stem Auger and Mud Rotary

DRILLER: RH/RM

RIG NO.: 525-CME550X-ATV

LOGGED BY: JF

CHECKED BY: JED

**GROUNDWATER & BACKFILL INFORMATION**

GROUNDWATER WAS NOT ENCOUNTERED

BACKFILL METHOD: Bentonite &amp; Cement

NOTES: 1. The indicated stratification lines are approximate. In situ, the transition between materials may be gradual.  
 2. Groundwater not observed due to mud rotary drilling method.



BORING B-2

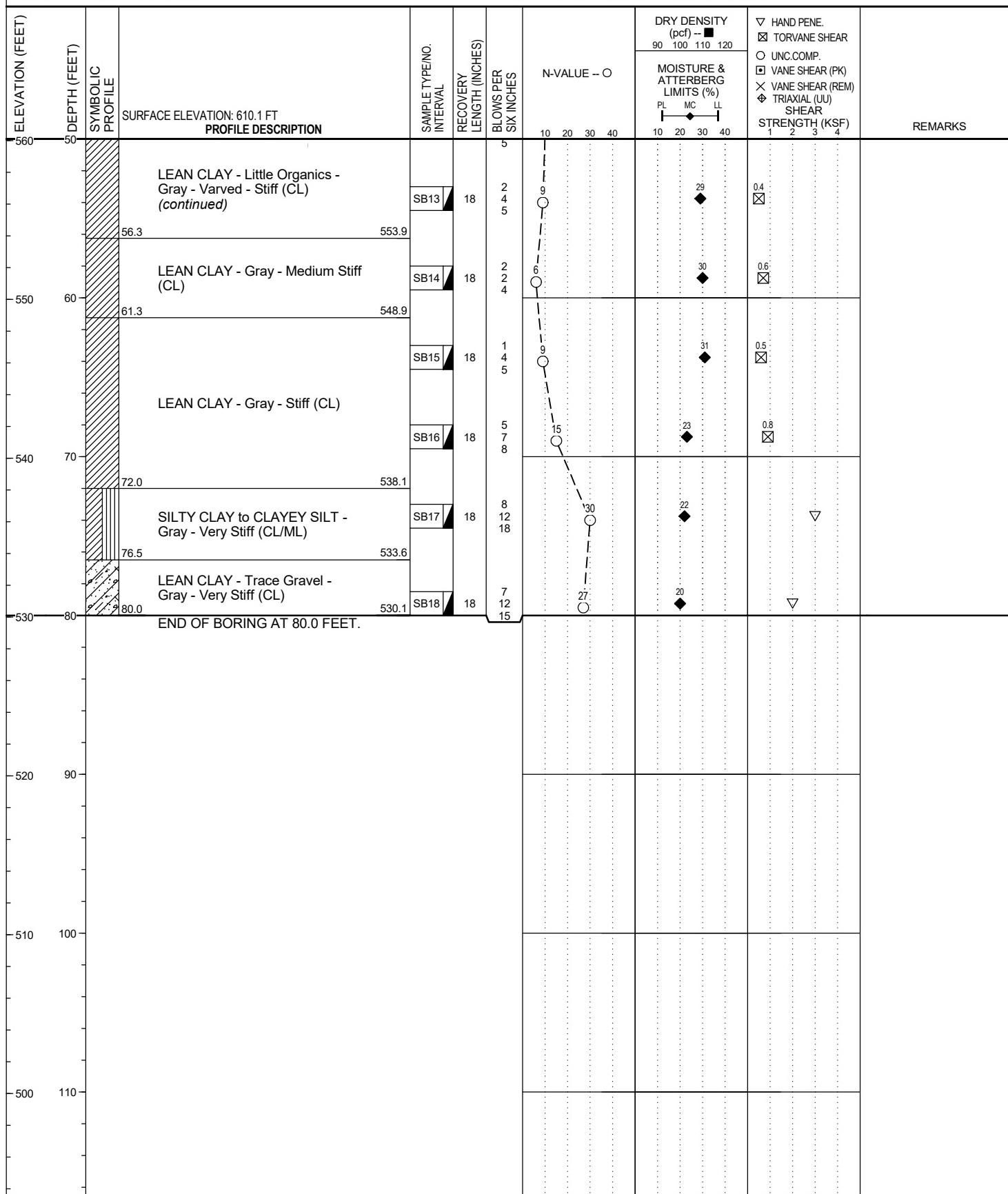
PAGE 2 OF 2

## **PROJECT NAME:** Carter Road Slide Geotechnical Analysis

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 076822.27

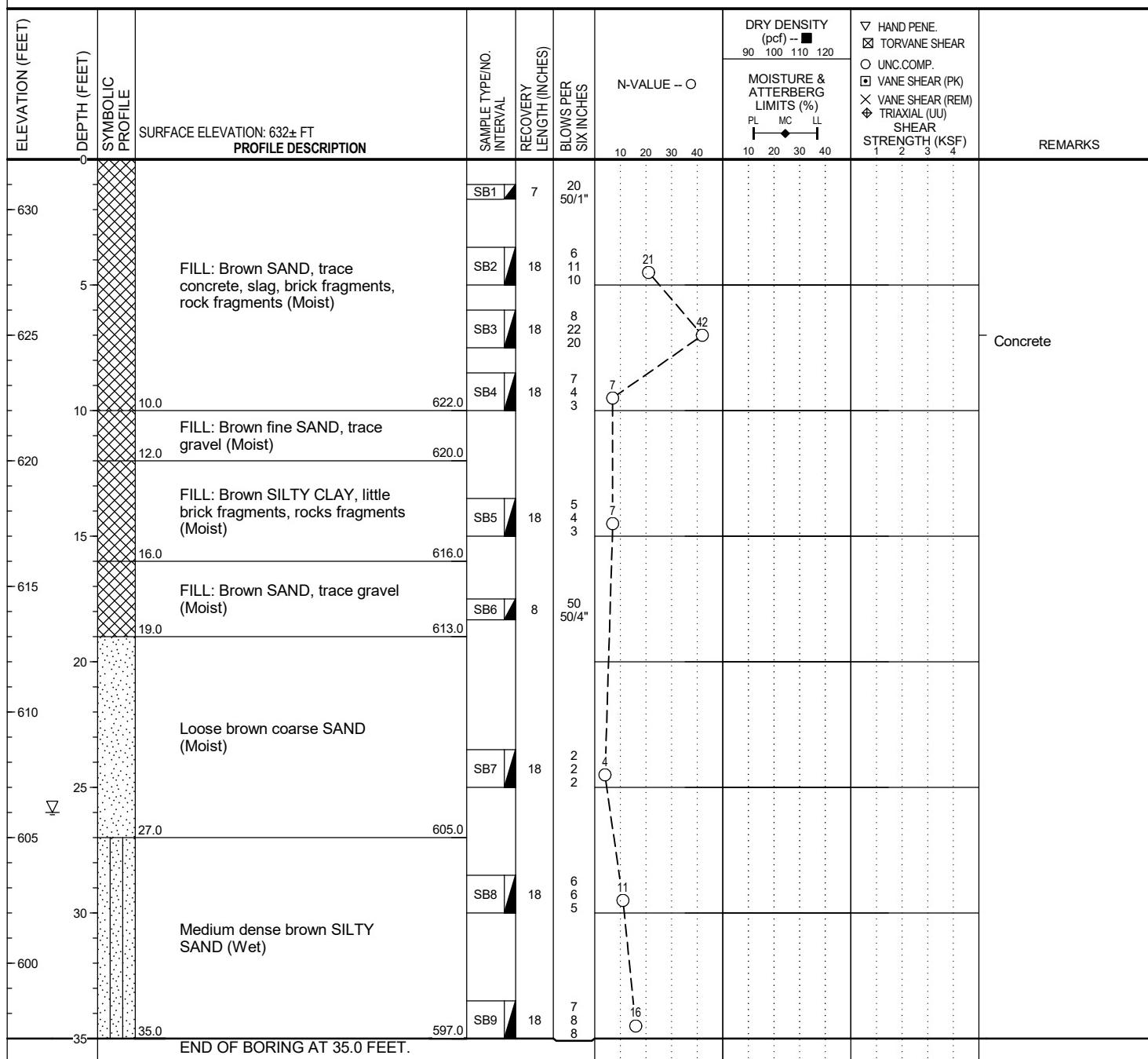
**CLIENT:** City of Cleveland

**PROJECT LOCATION:** Cleveland, Ohio



**BORING BS-3**

PAGE 1 OF 1

**SOLAR****PROJECT NAME:** Lake Link Homes Phase 1**CLIENT:** Lake Link LLC**DATE STARTED:** 6/3/16**COMPLETED:** 6/3/16**PROJECT NUMBER:** S016375**PROJECT LOCATION:** Carter Road, Cleveland, Ohio**DRILLER:** P. Simpson**RIG NO.:****BORING METHOD:** Hollow Stem Auger**LOGGED BY:** Sam S.**CHECKED BY:**

GROUNDWATER & BACKFILL INFORMATION			NOTES: 1. The indicated stratification lines are approximate. In situ, the transition between materials may be gradual. 2. Reproduced Solar Testing Laboratories Boring Log		
DEPTH (FT) ELEV (FT)					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DURING BORING: 26.0 606.0					
CAVE-IN OF BOREHOLE AT: 23.0 609.0					
BACKFILL METHOD:					

**BORING BS-4**

PAGE 1 OF 1

**SOLAR**

PROJECT NAME: Lake Link Homes Phase 1

PROJECT NUMBER: S016375

CLIENT: Lake Link LLC

PROJECT LOCATION: Carter Road, Cleveland, Ohio

DATE STARTED: 6/3/16

COMPLETED: 6/3/16

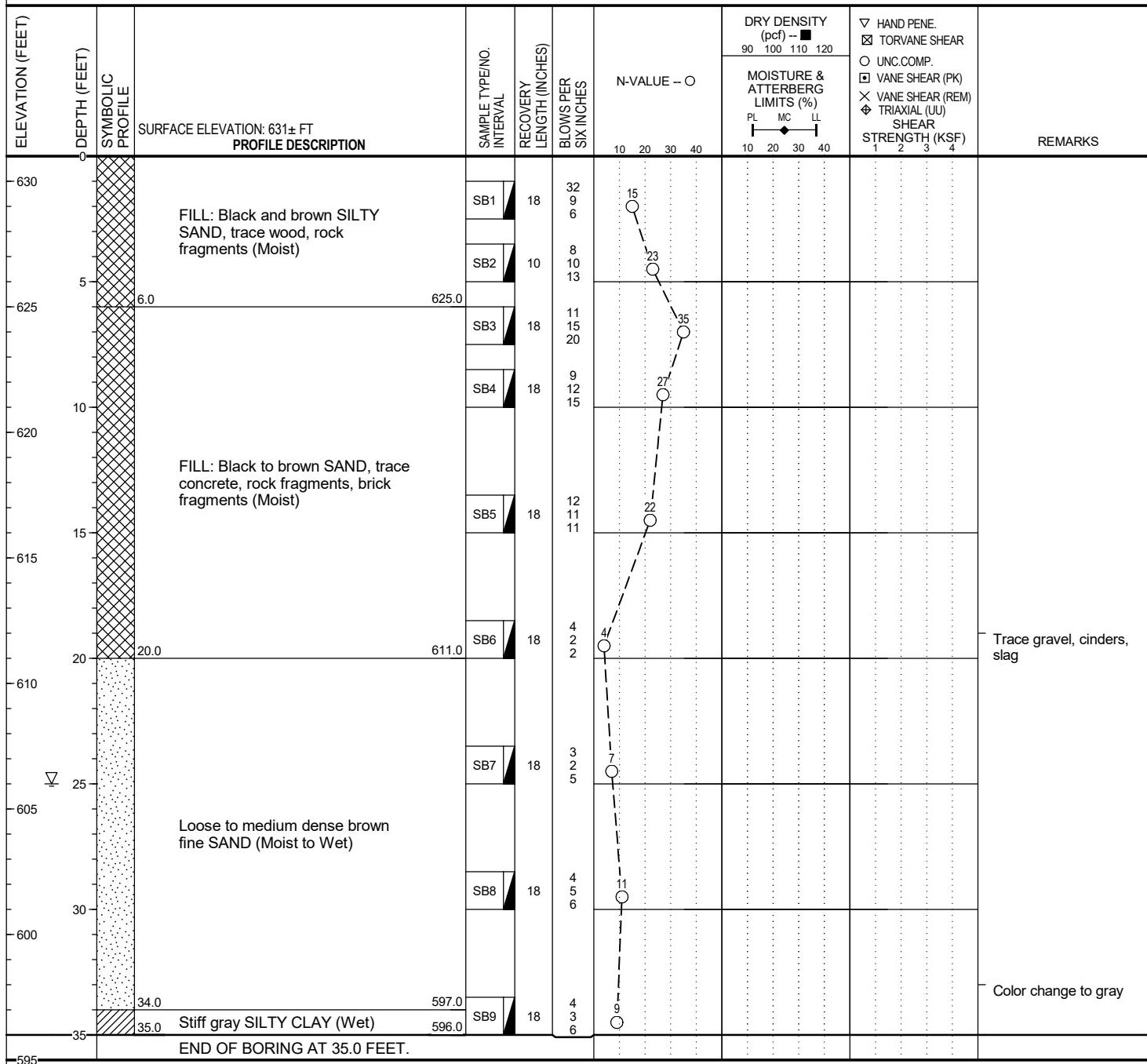
BORING METHOD: Hollow Stem Auger

DRILLER: P. Simpson

RIG NO.:

LOGGED BY: Sam S.

CHECKED BY:



GROUNDWATER & BACKFILL INFORMATION

DEPTH (FT) ELEV (FT)

DURING BORING: 25.0 606.0

NOTES: 1. The indicated stratification lines are approximate. In situ, the transition between materials may be gradual.  
2. Reproduced Solar Testing Laboratories Boring Log

CAVE-IN OF BOREHOLE AT: 23.5 607.5

BACKFILL METHOD:

**BORING BT-3**

PAGE 1 OF 1

**SOLAR**

PROJECT NAME: Lake Link Homes Phase 1

CLIENT: Lake Link LLC

DATE STARTED: 6/3/16

COMPLETED: 6/3/16

PROJECT NUMBER: S016375

PROJECT LOCATION: Carter Road, Cleveland, Ohio

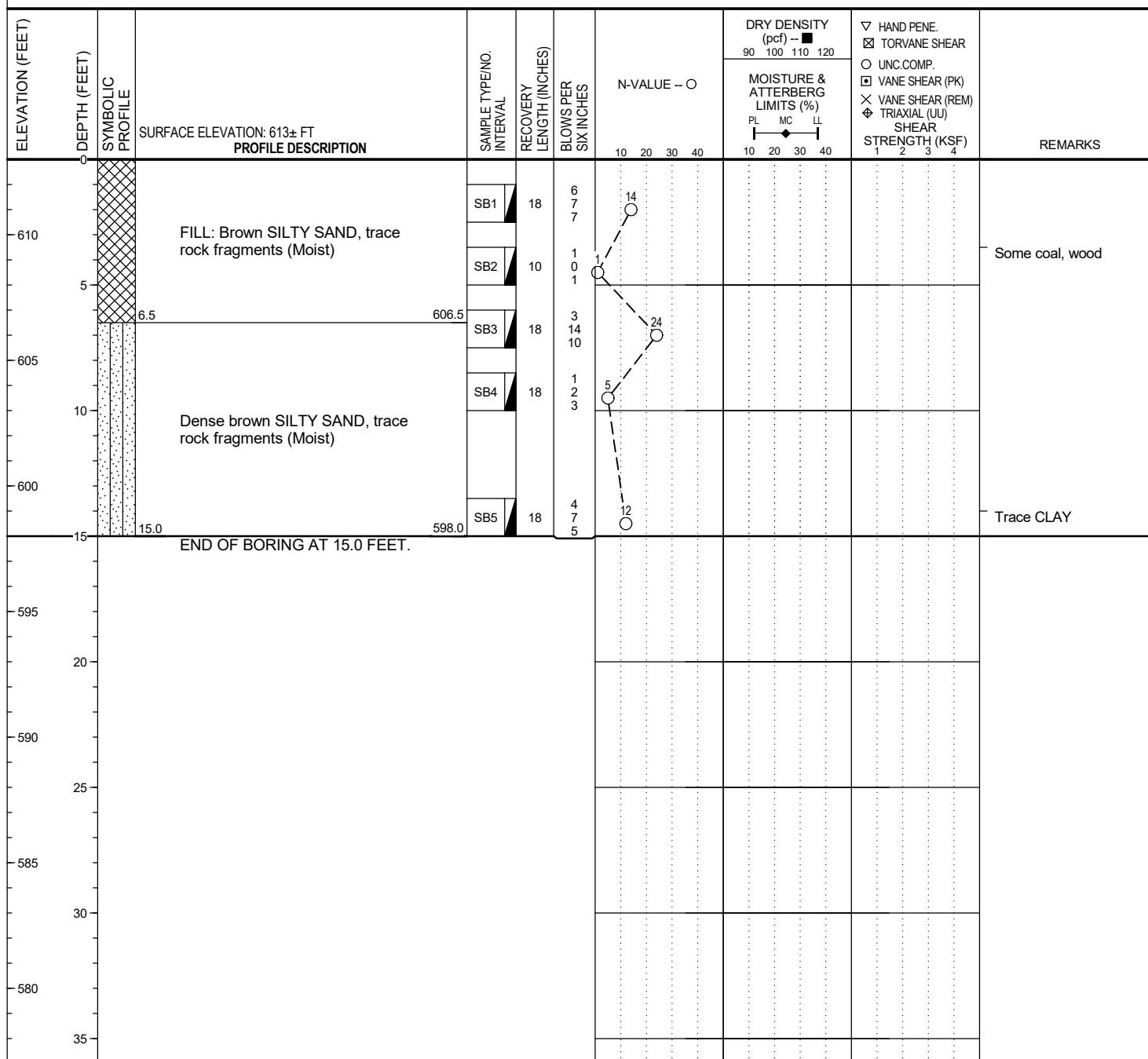
DRILLER: P. Simpson

RIG NO.:

BORING METHOD: Hollow Stem Auger

LOGGED BY: Sam S.

CHECKED BY:



## GROUNDWATER &amp; BACKFILL INFORMATION

GROUNDWATER WAS NOT ENCOUNTERED

NOTES: 1. The indicated stratification lines are approximate. In situ, the transition between materials may be gradual.  
2. Reproduced Solar Testing Laboratories Boring Log

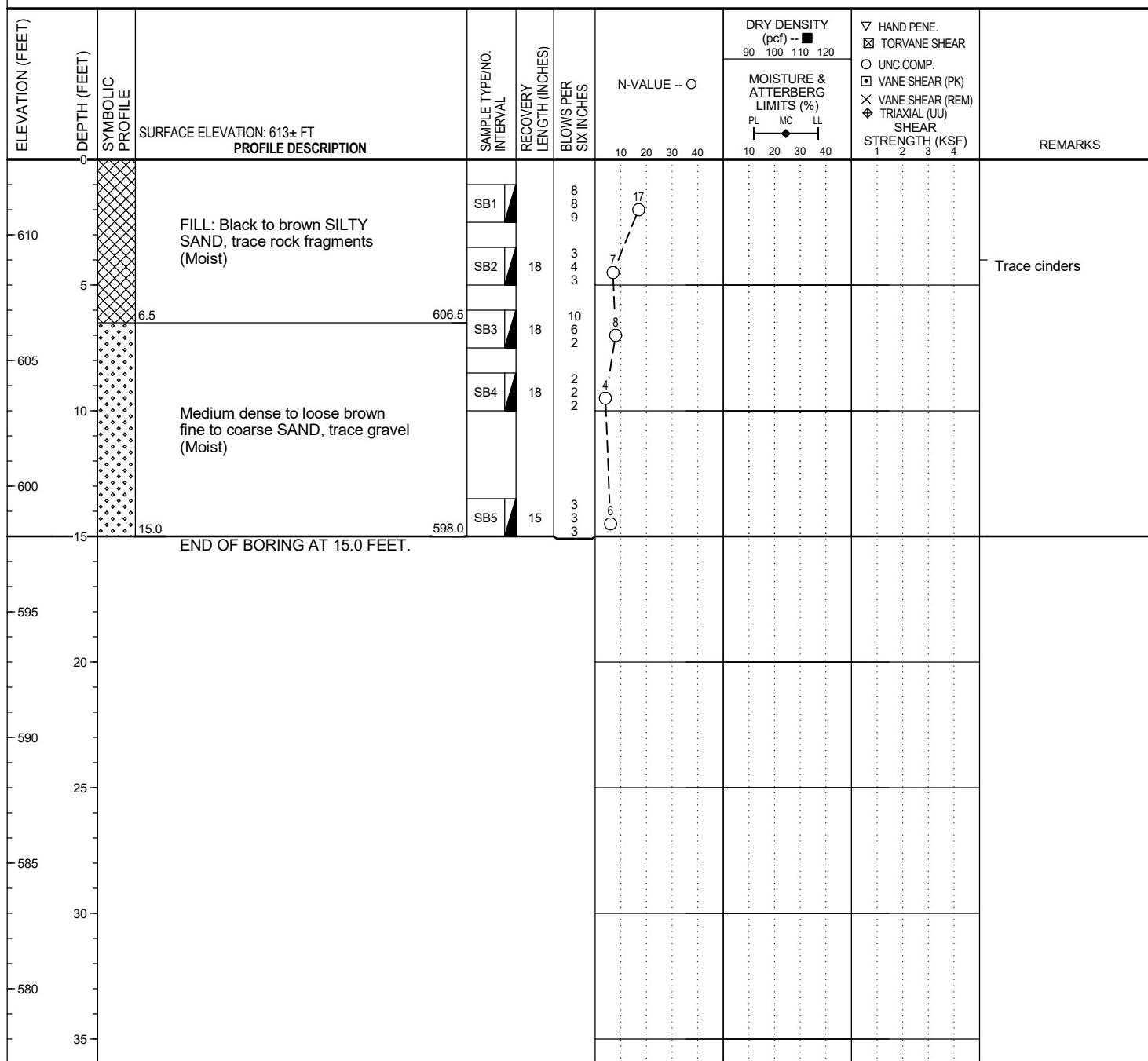
DEPTH (FT) ELEV (FT)

CAVE-IN OF BOREHOLE AT: 10.0 603.0

BACKFILL METHOD:

**BORING BT-4**

PAGE 1 OF 1

**SOLAR****PROJECT NAME:** Lake Link Homes Phase 1**CLIENT:** Lake Link LLC**DATE STARTED:** 6/3/16**COMPLETED:** 6/3/16**PROJECT NUMBER:** S016375**PROJECT LOCATION:** Carter Road, Cleveland, Ohio**DRILLER:** P. Simpson**RIG NO.:****BORING METHOD:** Hollow Stem Auger**LOGGED BY:** Sam S.**CHECKED BY:****GROUNDWATER & BACKFILL INFORMATION**

GROUNDWATER WAS NOT ENCOUNTERED

NOTES: 1. The indicated stratification lines are approximate. In situ, the transition between materials may be gradual.  
2. Reproduced Solar Testing Laboratories Boring Log

DEPTH (FT)

ELEV (FT)

CAVE-IN OF BOREHOLE AT: 10.0 603.0

BACKFILL METHOD:



## BORING B-6

PAGE 1 OF 3

SOLAR

PROJECT NAME: Scranton/Carter Road Rehabilitation

CLIENT: Machael Baker Corporation

DATE STARTED: 12/18/14

COMPLETED: 12/18/14

PROJECT NUMBER: A14585x10

PROJECT LOCATION: Cleveland, Ohio

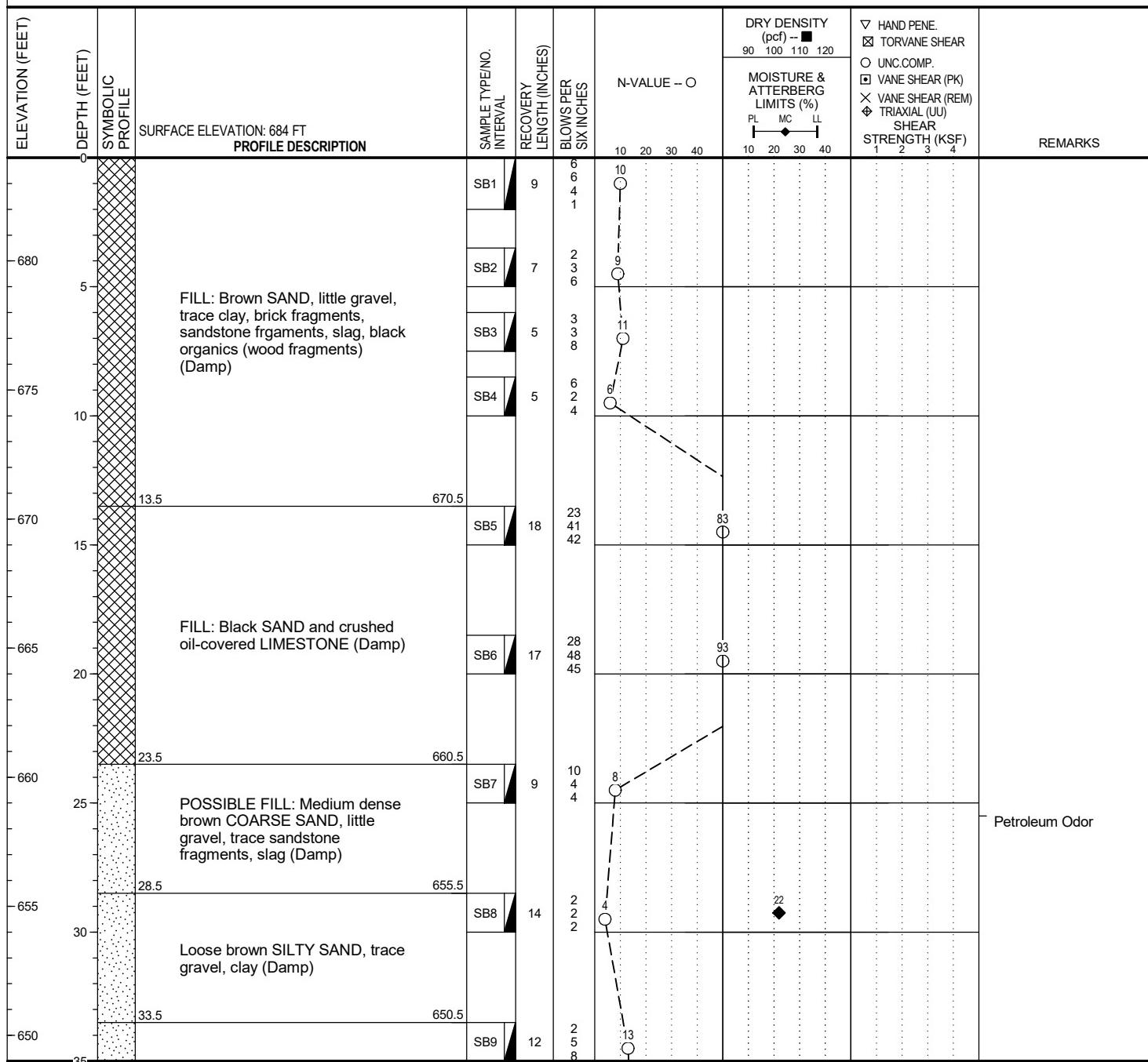
DRILLER: D. Simpson

RIG NO.:

BORING METHOD: 2 1/4" Hollow Stem Augers

LOGGED BY: S. Canning

CHECKED BY:



NOTES: 1. The indicated stratification lines are approximate. In situ, the transition between materials may be gradual.

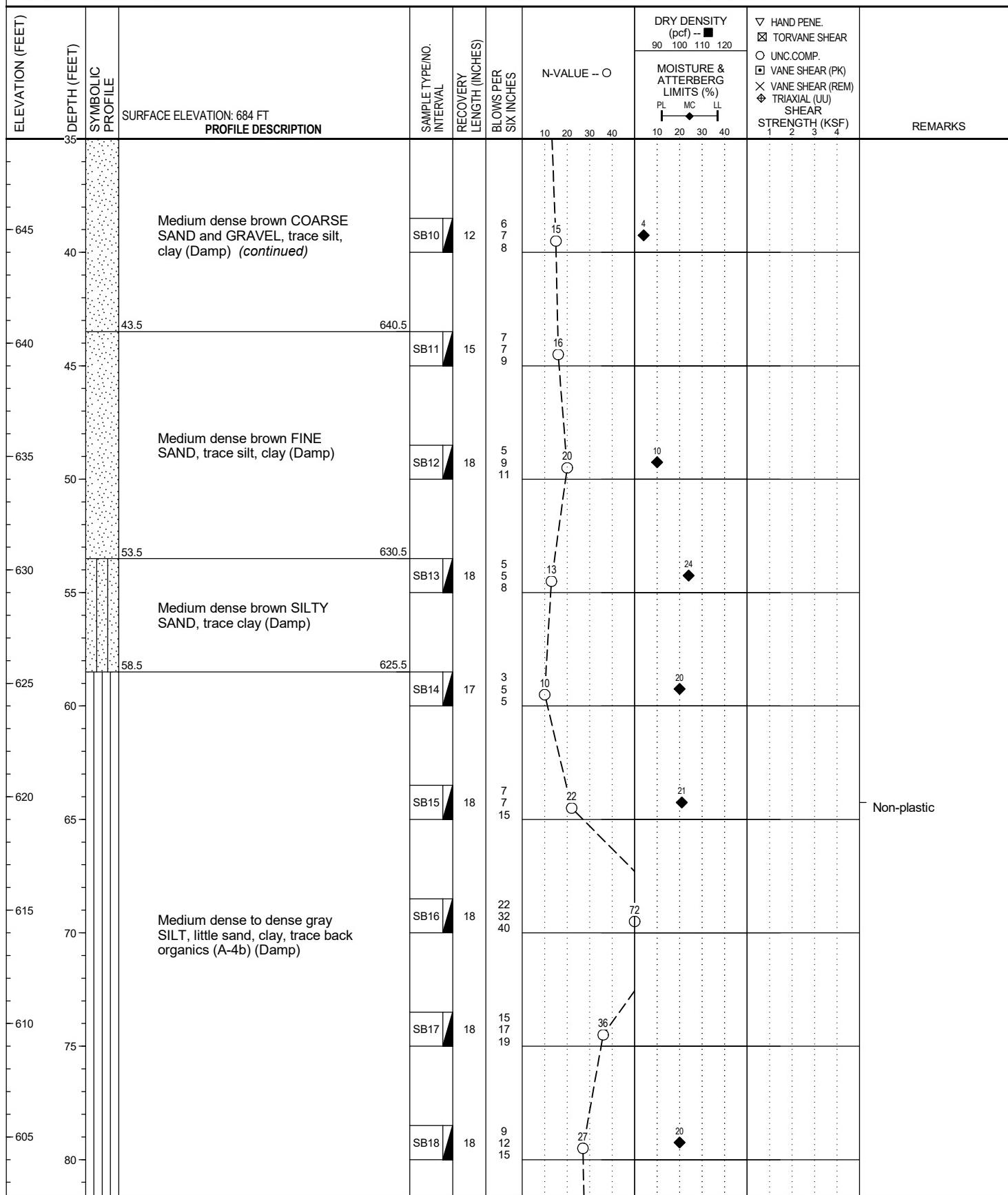
2. Reproduced Solar Testing Laboratories Boring Log

CAVE-IN OF BOREHOLE AT: 46.0 638.0

BACKFILL METHOD:

(Continued Next Page)

**PROJECT NAME:** Scranton/Carter Road Rehabilitation  
**CLIENT:** Machael Baker Corporation

**PROJECT NUMBER:** A14585x10  
**PROJECT LOCATION:** Cleveland, Ohio


(Continued Next Page)



BORING B-6

PAGE 3 OF 3

SOLAR

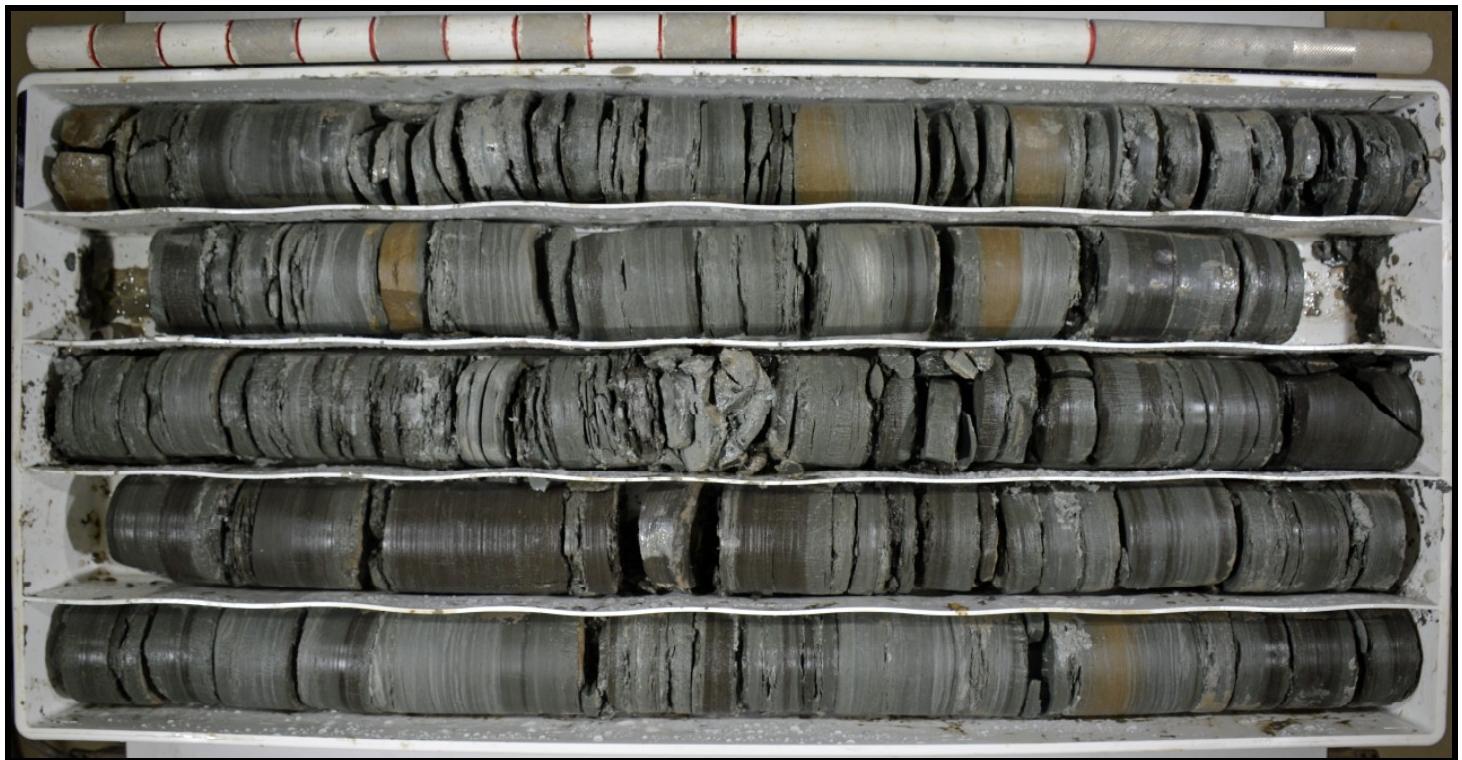
**PROJECT NAME:** Scranton/Carter Road Rehabilitation

**PROJECT NUMBER:** A14585x10

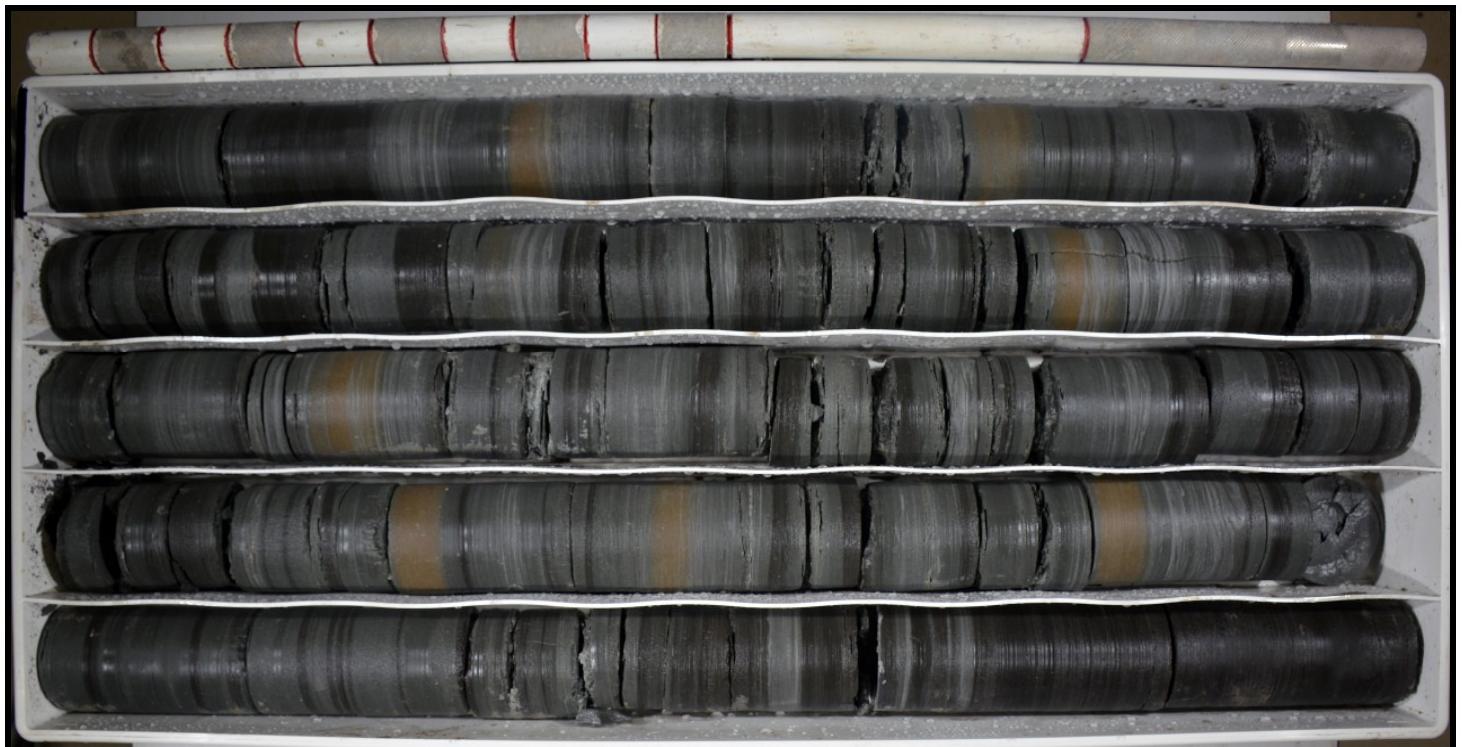
**CLIENT:** Machael Baker Corporation

**PROJECT LOCATION:** Cleveland, Ohio

CARTER ROAD SLIDE GEOTECHNICAL ANALYSIS  
CLEVELAND, OHIO  
SME 076822.27



B-1, RUN 1: NWL CORE 144.0 TO 154.0 FEET.



B-1, RUN 2: NWL CORE 154.0 TO 164.0 FEET.

<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	Carter Road Slide Cleveland, Ohio
<b>DATE</b>	December 11, 2018
<b>PROJECT #</b>	076822.27
<b>CLIENT</b>	City of Cleveland

SAMPLE	1	2	3	4
				
<b>SAMPLE LOCATION</b>	B-1; 154'	B-1; 164'		
<b>DATE TESTED</b>	August 17, 2016	August 17, 2016		
<b>ORIGINAL LENGTH, in</b>	---	---		
<b>CAPPED LENGTH, in</b>	4.39	4.36		
<b>DIAMETER, in</b>	1.97	1.95		
<b>AREA, sq. in.</b>	3.05	2.99		
<b>LOAD AT FAILURE, lbs.</b>	3,845	2,470		
<b>GROSS UNIT STRESS, psi</b>	1,261	827		
<b>LENGTH/DIAMETER RATIO</b>	2.2	2.2		
<b>CORRECTION FACTOR</b>	1.0	1.0		
<b>UNIT STRESS CORRECTED, psi</b>	1260	830		
<b>MOISTURE CONDITION WHEN TESTED</b>	MOIST	MOIST		

**REMARKS:** Correction factor used from ASTM C39, section 8.2  
 Samples tested do not meet the requirements for sample preparation per ASTM D4543



9375 Chillicothe Road, Kirtland, Ohio 44094-8501  
p: 440-256-6500, f: 440-256-6500

**PROJECT:** Carter Road Landslide  
**LOCATION:** Cleveland, Ohio  
**PROJECT #:** 076822.27  
**CLIENT:** City of Cleveland  
**TEST DATE(S):** 1/2/2019

## DIRECT SHEAR TEST, ASTM D3080

**SAMPLE #:** ST

**SAMPLE LOCATION:** B-1; 36.5' - 38.5'

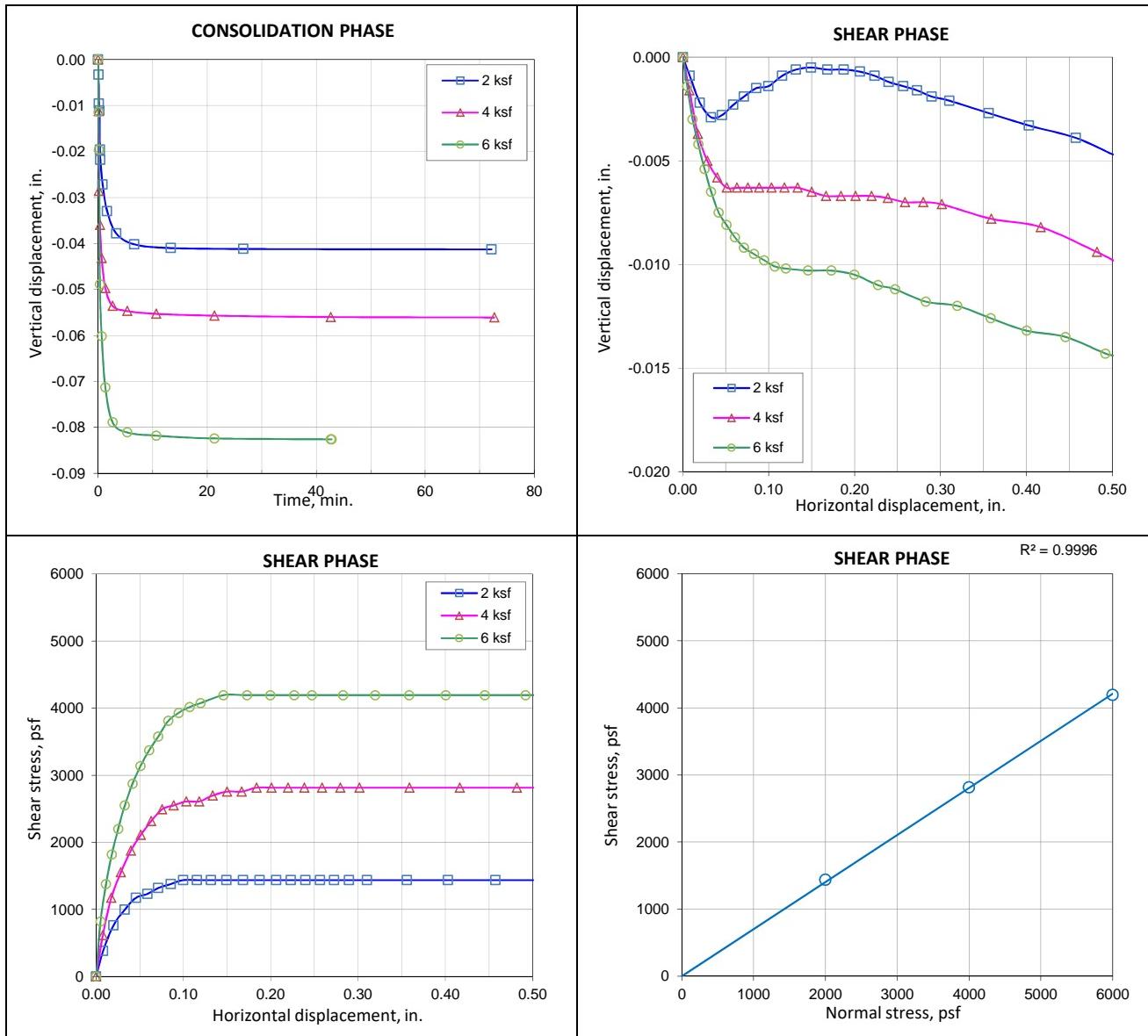
**SAMPLE DESCRIPTION:** Brown SANDY SILT

**SOIL STRUCTURE:** Undisturbed

**SHEAR DEVICE:** Tecnotest

**TEST CONDITIONS:** Shear box saturated

**TECHNICIAN:** SM



Sample Parameters		
Normal stress (psf):	2000	4000
Thickness (in):	0.999	6000
Diameter (in):	2.500	
Dry mass sample (gr):	151.8	151.3
Initial moisture content (%):	17.2	17.3
Initial wet density (pcf):	137.7	137.5
Initial dry density (pcf):	117.5	117.2
Final moisture content (%):	15.3	15.1
Final wet density (pcf):	143.3	145.4
Final dry density (pcf):	124.3	126.4

Test Results		
Normal stress (psf):	2000	4000
CONSOLIDATION PHASE		
Final vertical displacement (in):	-0.041	-0.056
Duration consolidation (min):	72.2	72.7
SHEAR PHASE		
Peak shear stress (psf):	1438	2816
Horizontal displacement (in):	0.093	0.175
Shear rate (mm/min):	0.010	0.011
Duration of test (min):	885	855
$\phi$ (deg):	35.1	1140
Cohesion (psf):	0	



9375 Chillicothe Road, Kirtland, Ohio 44094-8501  
p: 440-256-6500, f: 440-256-6500

**PROJECT:** Carter Road Landslide  
**LOCATION:** Cleveland, Ohio  
**PROJECT #:** 076822.27  
**CLIENT:** City of Cleveland  
**TEST DATE(S):** 1/7/2019

## DIRECT SHEAR TEST, ASTM D3080

**SAMPLE #:** ST

**SAMPLE LOCATION:** B-1; 51.5' - 53.5'

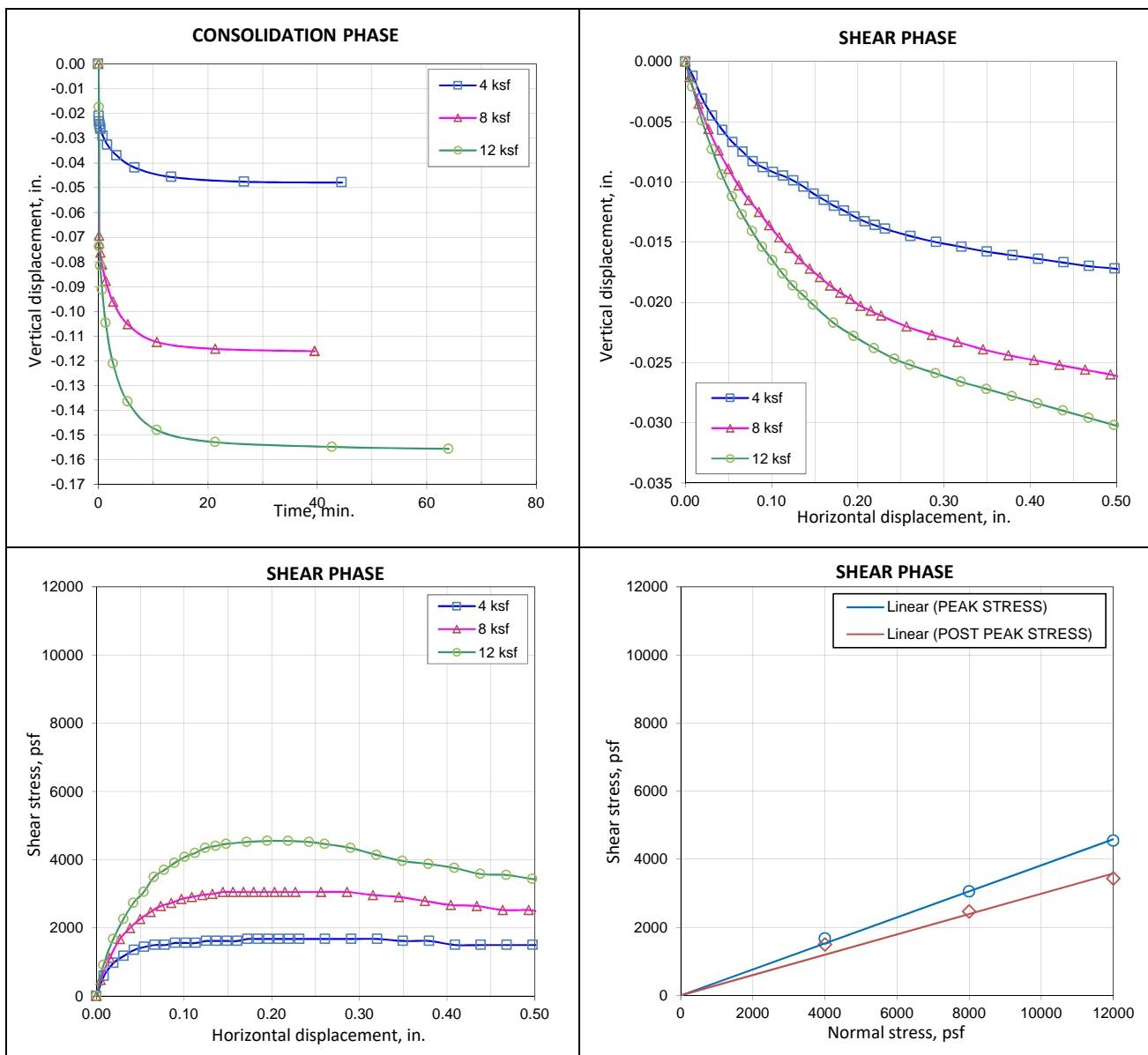
**SAMPLE DESCRIPTION:** Gray LEAN CLAY

**SOIL STRUCTURE:** Undisturbed

**SHEAR DEVICE:** Humboldt

**TEST CONDITIONS:** Shear box saturated

**TECHNICIAN:** SM



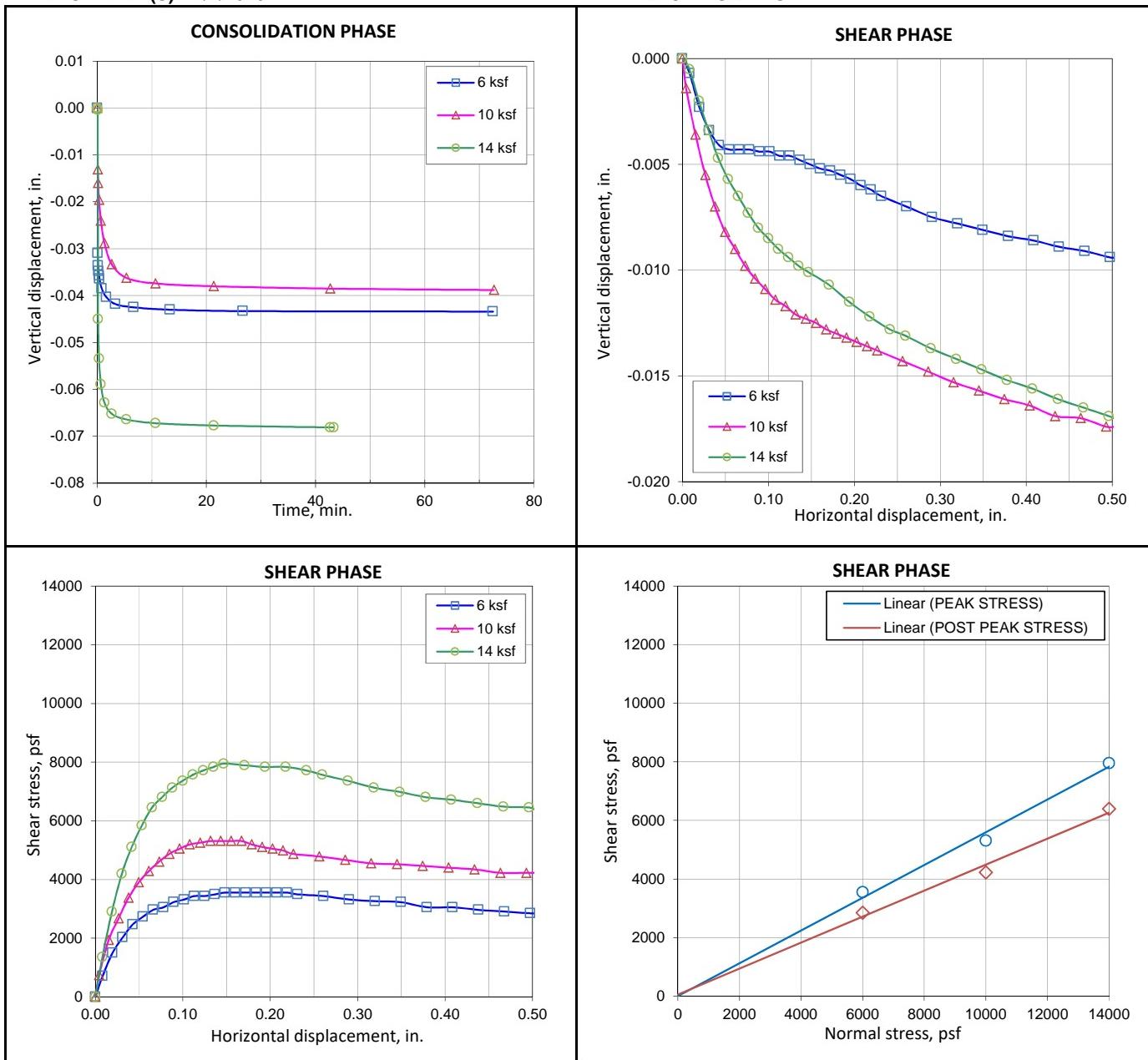
Sample Parameters		
Normal stress (psf):	4000	8000
Thickness (in):	0.999	12000
Diameter (in):	2.500	
Dry mass sample (gr):	121.6	121.5
Initial moisture content (%):	29.5	29.3
Final moisture content (%):	29.6	30.2
Initial wet density (pcf):	122.0	121.7
Initial dry density (pcf):	94.2	122.2
Final wet density (pcf):	131.4	94.1
Final dry density (pcf):	101.4	93.8
	147.1	26.4

Test Results		
Normal stress (psf):	4000	8000
CONSOLIDATION PHASE		
Final vertical displacement (in):	-0.048	-0.116
Duration consolidation (min):	44.5	39.5
SHEAR PHASE		
Peak Shear Stress (psf):	1672	3051
Horizontal displacement (in):	0.167	0.138
Post Peak Shear Stress (psf):	1496	2464
Horizontal displacement (in):	0.504	0.505
Shear rate (mm/min):	0.010	0.010
Duration of test (min):	1290	1305
Peak: $\phi$ (deg)	20.9	16.6
Post Peak: C (psf)	0	0

**PROJECT:** Carter Road Landslide  
**LOCATION:** Cleveland, Ohio  
**PROJECT #:** 076822.27  
**CLIENT:** City of Cleveland  
**TEST DATE(S):** 1/2/2019

**DIRECT SHEAR TEST, ASTM D3080**

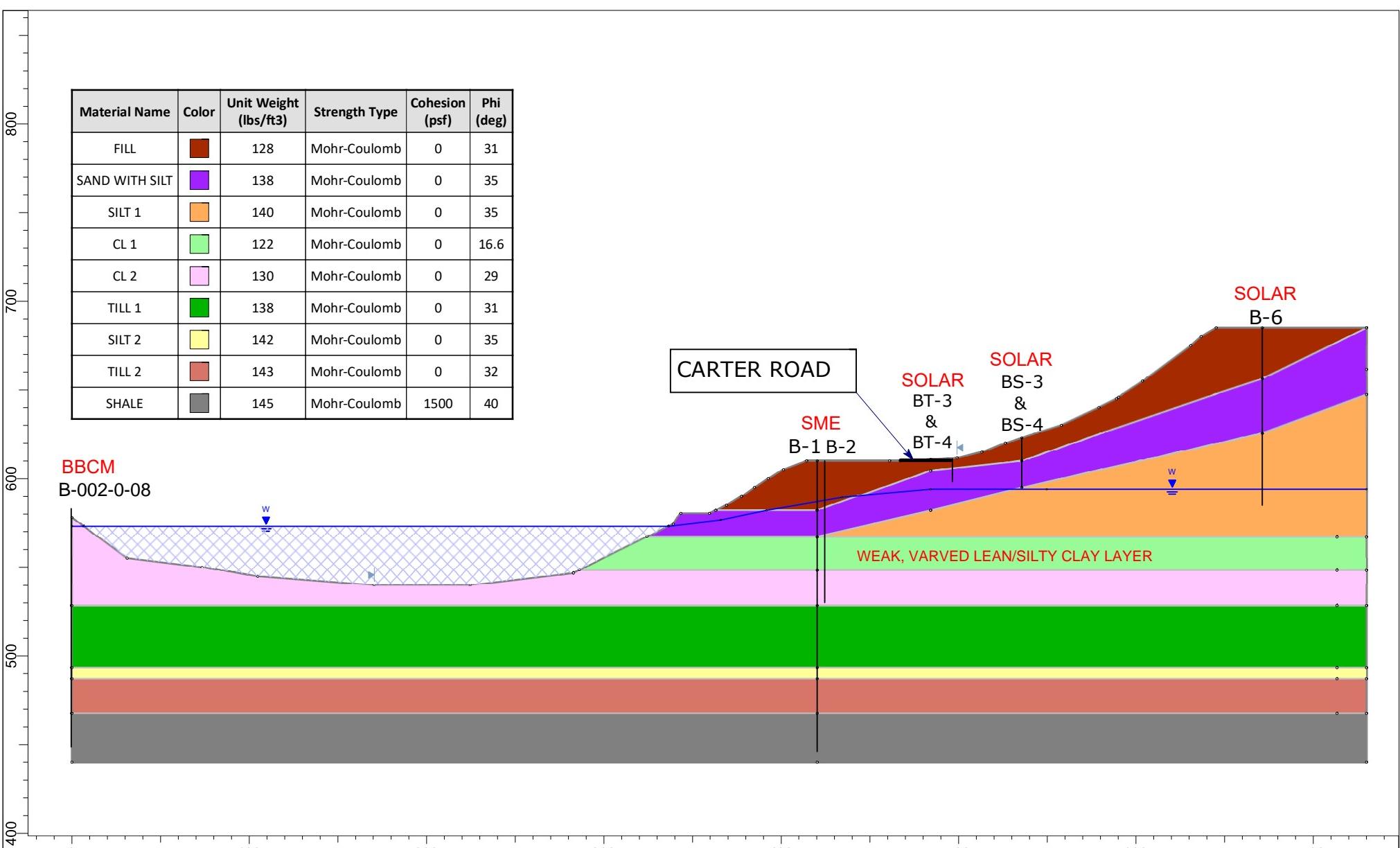
**SAMPLE #:** ST  
**SAMPLE LOCATION:** B-1; 73.5' - 75.5'  
**SAMPLE DESCRIPTION:** Gray LEAN CLAY  
**SOIL STRUCTURE:** Undisturbed  
**SHEAR DEVICE:** Humboldt  
**TEST CONDITIONS:** Shear box saturated  
**TECHNICIAN:** SM



<b>Sample Parameters</b>			
Normal stress (psf):	6000	10000	14000
Thickness (in):		0.999	
Diameter (in):		2.500	
Dry mass sample (gr):	136.8	138.7	139.2
Initial moisture content (%):	21.8	21.5	21.3
Initial wet density (pcf):	129.0	130.5	130.8
Initial dry density (pcf):	105.9	107.4	107.8
Final moisture content (%):	21.6	21.0	20.9
Final wet density (pcf):	136.8	138.1	143.4
Final dry density (pcf):	112.4	114.2	118.6

<b>Test Results</b>			
Normal stress (psf):	6000	10000	14000
CONSOLIDATION PHASE			
Final vertical displacement (in):	-0.043	-0.039	-0.068
Duration consolidation (min):	72.5	72.7	43.3
SHEAR PHASE			
Peak Shear Stress (psf):	3550	5310	7950
Horizontal displacement (in):	0.143	0.126	0.147
Post Peak Shear Stress (psf):	2846	4225	6396
Horizontal displacement (in):	0.503	0.505	0.502
Shear rate (mm/min):	0.010	0.010	0.010
Duration of test (min):	1290	1305	1290
Peak:	$\phi$ (deg)	29.2	24.1
Post Peak:	C (psf)	0	0

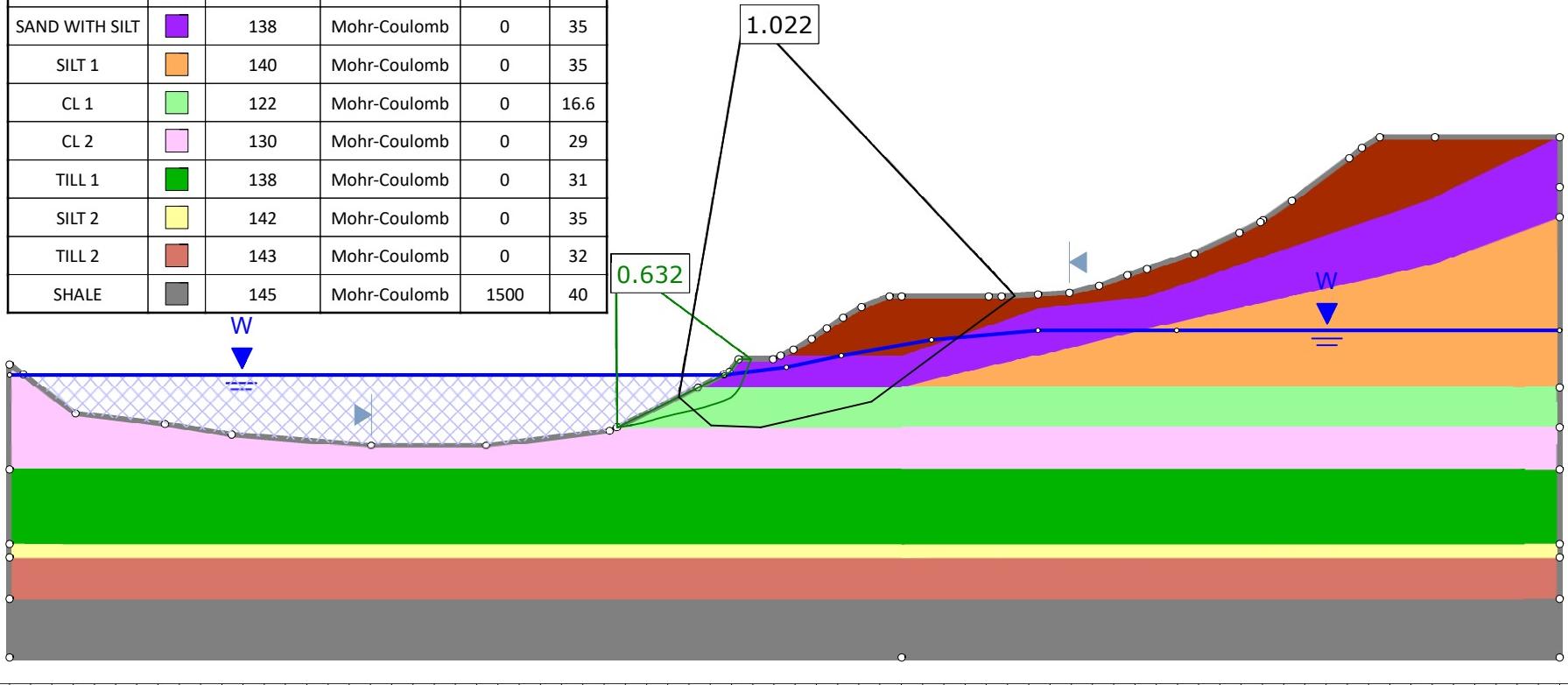
Material Name	Color	Unit Weight (lbs/ft <sup>3</sup> )	Strength Type	Cohesion (psf)	Phi (deg)
FILL	Dark Brown	128	Mohr-Coulomb	0	31
SAND WITH SILT	Purple	138	Mohr-Coulomb	0	35
SILT 1	Orange	140	Mohr-Coulomb	0	35
CL 1	Light Green	122	Mohr-Coulomb	0	16.6
CL 2	Light Pink	130	Mohr-Coulomb	0	29
TILL 1	Dark Green	138	Mohr-Coulomb	0	31
SILT 2	Yellow	142	Mohr-Coulomb	0	35
TILL 2	Reddish Brown	143	Mohr-Coulomb	0	32
SHALE	Grey	145	Mohr-Coulomb	1500	40



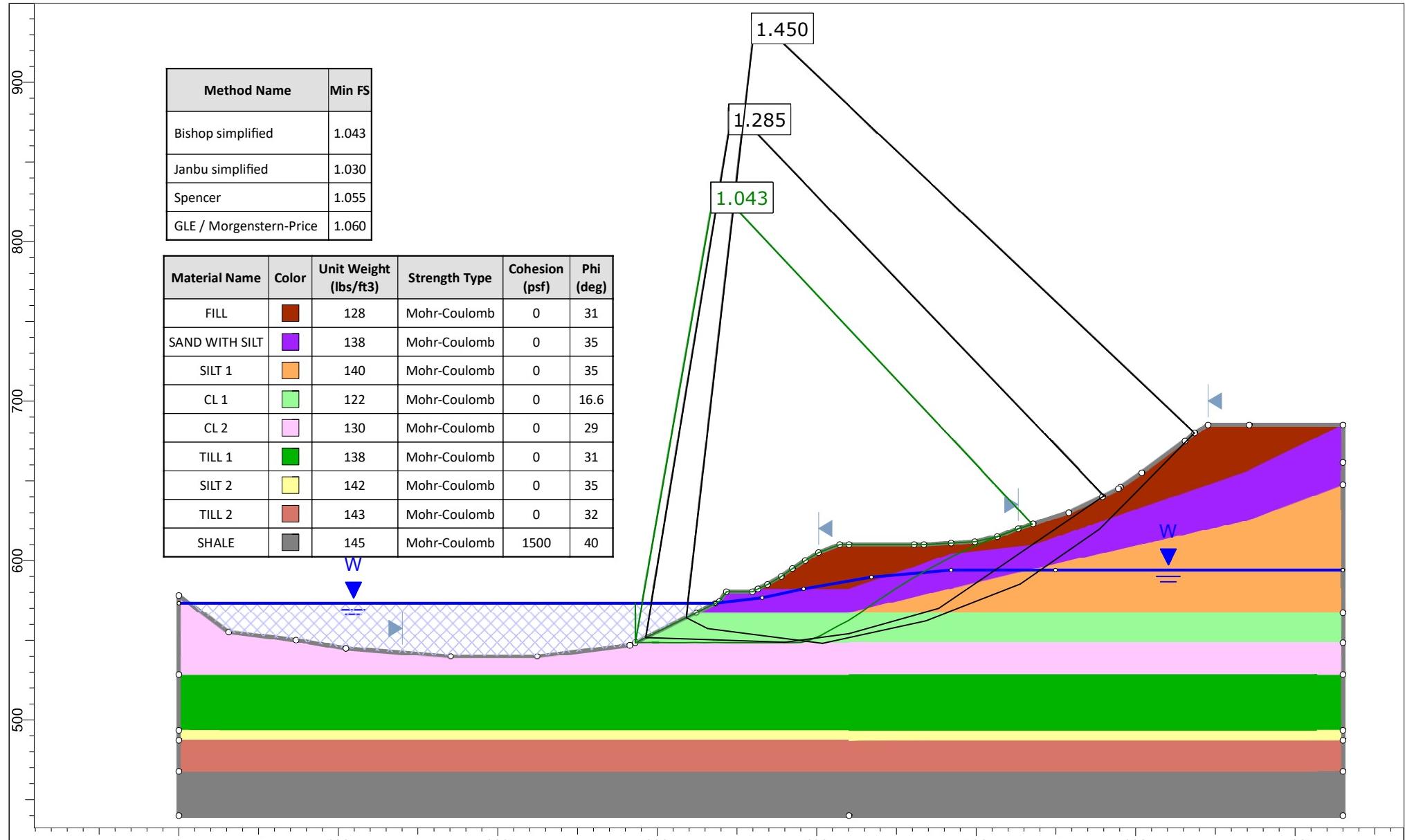
 SLIDE 8.016	Project	076822.27_Carter Road Slope	
	Analysis	Slope Profile	
	Author	Jalal Fatemi	Company
	Date	1/31/2019, 5:27:24 PM	File Name

Method Name	Min FS
Bishop simplified	0.632
Janbu simplified	0.597
Spencer	0.623
GLE / Morgenstern-Price	0.616

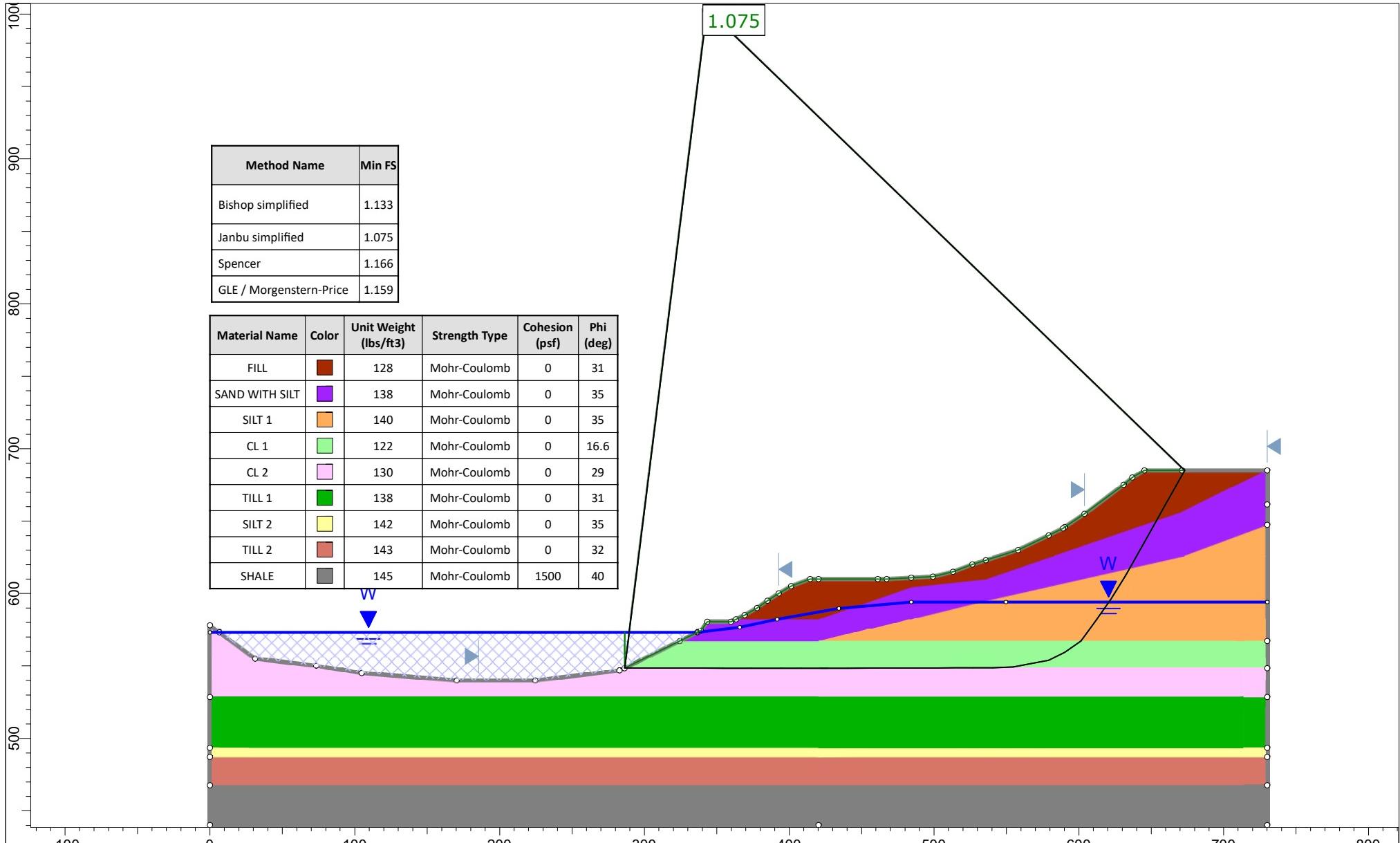
Material Name	Color	Unit Weight (lbs/ft³)	Strength Type	Cohesion (psf)	Phi (deg)
FILL	Dark Brown	128	Mohr-Coulomb	0	31
SAND WITH SILT	Purple	138	Mohr-Coulomb	0	35
SILT 1	Orange	140	Mohr-Coulomb	0	35
CL 1	Light Green	122	Mohr-Coulomb	0	16.6
CL 2	Light Pink	130	Mohr-Coulomb	0	29
TILL 1	Dark Green	138	Mohr-Coulomb	0	31
SILT 2	Yellow	142	Mohr-Coulomb	0	35
TILL 2	Reddish Brown	143	Mohr-Coulomb	0	32
SHALE	Grey	145	Mohr-Coulomb	1500	40



 SLIDEINTERPRET 8.016	Project	076822.27_Carter Road		
	Analysis Description	Down Slope_Non-circular		
	Drawn By	JF	Scale	1:950
	Date	2/13/2019 12:18:35 PM		File Name
		076822.27.slmd		



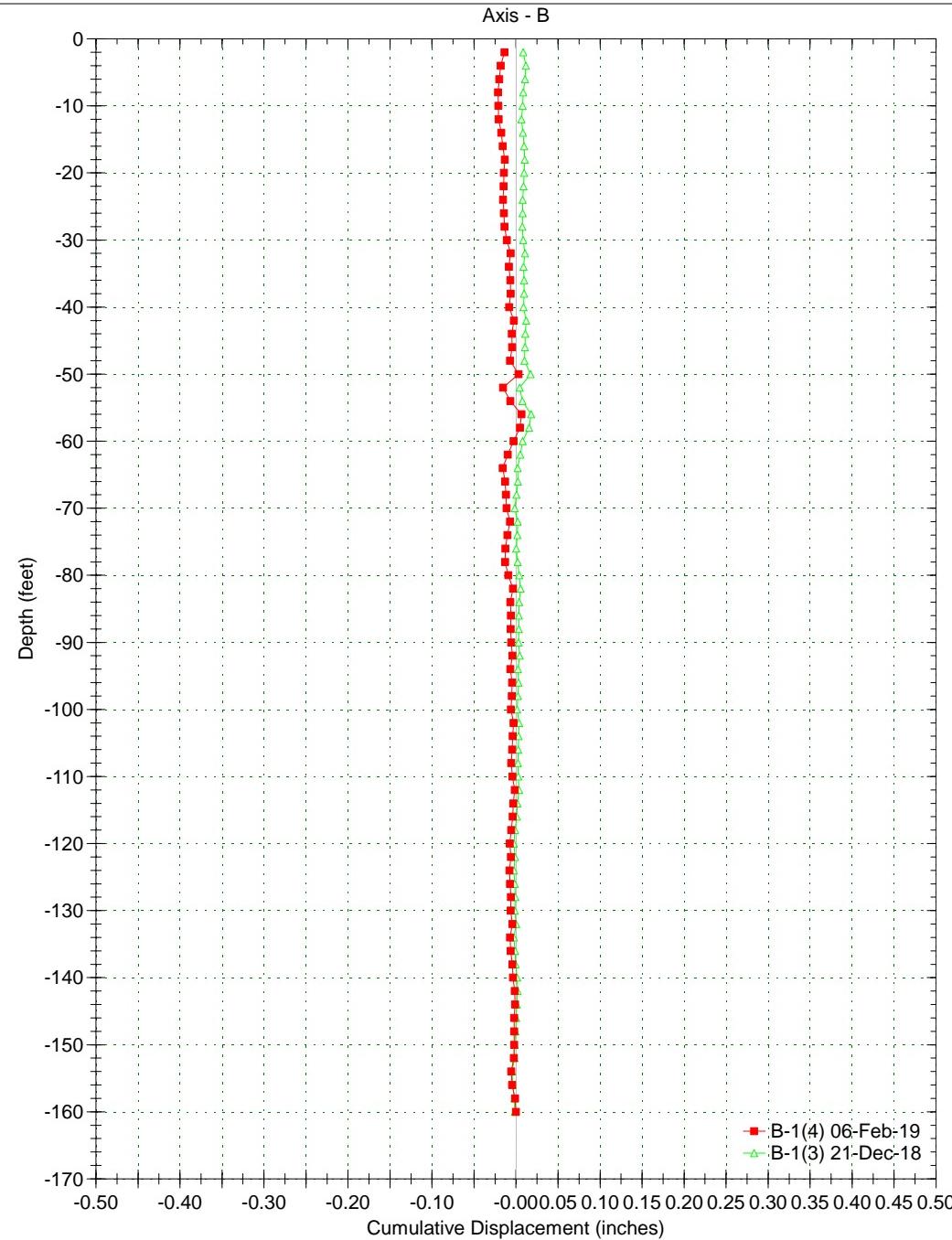
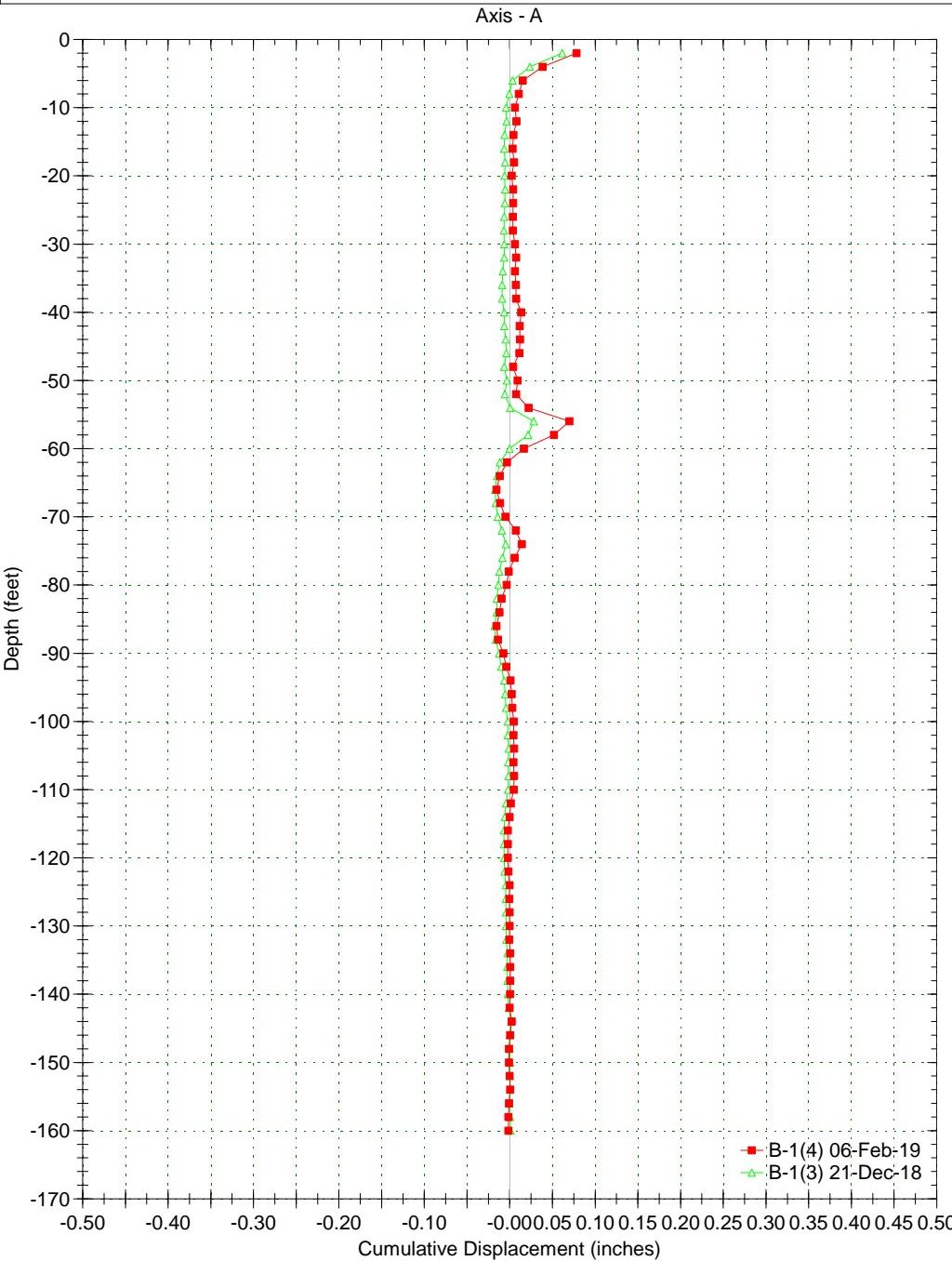
 SLIDEINTERPRET 8.016	Project	076822.27_Carter Road		
	Analysis Description	Mid Slope_Non-circular		
	Drawn By	JF	Scale	1:1000
	Date	2/13/2019 12:15:50 PM		Company
				SME
		File Name		076822.27.slmd



 SLIDEINTERPRET 8.016	Project		076822.27_Carter Road	
	Analysis Description		Top Slope_Non-circular	
	Drawn By	JF	Scale	1:1100
	Date	2/13/2019 12:11:57 PM		Company SME File Name 076822.27.slmd

Borehole : B-1  
Project : 076822.27\_Carter Road Slope Failure  
Location : Cleveland, OH  
Northing : 664603.7174  
Easting : 2187952.388  
Collar :

Spiral Correction : N/A  
Collar Elevation : 0.00 feet  
Reading Depth : 160.0 feet  
A+ Groove Azimuth :  
Base Reading : 2018 Dec 07 14:19  
Applied Azimuth : 0.0 degrees



## **APPENDIX B**

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THIS GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING REPORT GENERAL COMMENTS**

# Important Information about This Geotechnical-Engineering Report

Subsurface problems are a principal cause of construction delays, cost overruns, claims, and disputes.

While you cannot eliminate all such risks, you can manage them. The following information is provided to help.

The Geoprofessional Business Association (GBA) has prepared this advisory to help you – assumedly a client representative – interpret and apply this geotechnical-engineering report as effectively as possible. In that way, clients can benefit from a lowered exposure to the subsurface problems that, for decades, have been a principal cause of construction delays, cost overruns, claims, and disputes. If you have questions or want more information about any of the issues discussed below, contact your GBA-member geotechnical engineer. Active involvement in the Geoprofessional Business Association exposes geotechnical engineers to a wide array of risk-confrontation techniques that can be of genuine benefit for everyone involved with a construction project.

## Geotechnical-Engineering Services Are Performed for Specific Purposes, Persons, and Projects

Geotechnical engineers structure their services to meet the specific needs of their clients. A geotechnical-engineering study conducted for a given civil engineer will not likely meet the needs of a civil-works constructor or even a different civil engineer. Because each geotechnical-engineering study is unique, each geotechnical-engineering report is unique, prepared solely for the client. *Those who rely on a geotechnical-engineering report prepared for a different client can be seriously misled.* No one except authorized client representatives should rely on this geotechnical-engineering report without first conferring with the geotechnical engineer who prepared it. *And no one – not even you – should apply this report for any purpose or project except the one originally contemplated.*

## Read this Report in Full

Costly problems have occurred because those relying on a geotechnical-engineering report did not read it *in its entirety*. Do not rely on an executive summary. Do not read selected elements only. *Read this report in full.*

## You Need to Inform Your Geotechnical Engineer about Change

Your geotechnical engineer considered unique, project-specific factors when designing the study behind this report and developing the confirmation-dependent recommendations the report conveys. A few typical factors include:

- the client's goals, objectives, budget, schedule, and risk-management preferences;
- the general nature of the structure involved, its size, configuration, and performance criteria;
- the structure's location and orientation on the site; and
- other planned or existing site improvements, such as retaining walls, access roads, parking lots, and underground utilities.

Typical changes that could erode the reliability of this report include those that affect:

- the site's size or shape;
- the function of the proposed structure, as when it's changed from a parking garage to an office building, or from a light-industrial plant to a refrigerated warehouse;
- the elevation, configuration, location, orientation, or weight of the proposed structure;
- the composition of the design team; or
- project ownership.

As a general rule, *always* inform your geotechnical engineer of project changes – even minor ones – and request an assessment of their impact. *The geotechnical engineer who prepared this report cannot accept responsibility or liability for problems that arise because the geotechnical engineer was not informed about developments the engineer otherwise would have considered.*

## This Report May Not Be Reliable

*Do not rely on this report* if your geotechnical engineer prepared it:

- for a different client;
- for a different project;
- for a different site (that may or may not include all or a portion of the original site); or
- before important events occurred at the site or adjacent to it; e.g., man-made events like construction or environmental remediation, or natural events like floods, droughts, earthquakes, or groundwater fluctuations.

Note, too, that it could be unwise to rely on a geotechnical-engineering report whose reliability may have been affected by the passage of time, because of factors like changed subsurface conditions; new or modified codes, standards, or regulations; or new techniques or tools. *If your geotechnical engineer has not indicated an "apply-by" date on the report, ask what it should be, and, in general, if you are the least bit uncertain about the continued reliability of this report, contact your geotechnical engineer before applying it.* A minor amount of additional testing or analysis – if any is required at all – could prevent major problems.

## Most of the "Findings" Related in This Report Are Professional Opinions

Before construction begins, geotechnical engineers explore a site's subsurface through various sampling and testing procedures.

*Geotechnical engineers can observe actual subsurface conditions only at those specific locations where sampling and testing were performed.* The data derived from that sampling and testing were reviewed by your geotechnical engineer, who then applied professional judgment to form opinions about subsurface conditions throughout the site. Actual sitewide-subsurface conditions may differ – maybe significantly – from those indicated in this report. Confront that risk by retaining your geotechnical engineer to serve on the design team from project start to project finish, so the individual can provide informed guidance quickly, whenever needed.

## This Report's Recommendations Are Confirmation-Dependent

The recommendations included in this report – including any options or alternatives – are confirmation-dependent. In other words, *they are not final*, because the geotechnical engineer who developed them relied heavily on judgment and opinion to do so. Your geotechnical engineer can finalize the recommendations *only after observing actual subsurface conditions* revealed during construction. If through observation your geotechnical engineer confirms that the conditions assumed to exist actually do exist, the recommendations can be relied upon, assuming no other changes have occurred. *The geotechnical engineer who prepared this report cannot assume responsibility or liability for confirmation-dependent recommendations if you fail to retain that engineer to perform construction observation.*

## This Report Could Be Misinterpreted

Other design professionals' misinterpretation of geotechnical-engineering reports has resulted in costly problems. Confront that risk by having your geotechnical engineer serve as a full-time member of the design team, to:

- confer with other design-team members,
- help develop specifications,
- review pertinent elements of other design professionals' plans and specifications, and
- be on hand quickly whenever geotechnical-engineering guidance is needed.

You should also confront the risk of constructors misinterpreting this report. Do so by retaining your geotechnical engineer to participate in prebid and preconstruction conferences and to perform construction observation.

## Give Constructors a Complete Report and Guidance

Some owners and design professionals mistakenly believe they can shift unanticipated-subsurface-conditions liability to constructors by limiting the information they provide for bid preparation. To help prevent the costly, contentious problems this practice has caused, include the complete geotechnical-engineering report, along with any attachments or appendices, with your contract documents, *but be certain to note conspicuously that you've included the material for informational purposes only*. To avoid misunderstanding, you may also want to note that "informational purposes" means constructors have no right to rely on the interpretations, opinions, conclusions, or recommendations in the report, but they may rely on the factual data relative to the specific times, locations, and depths/elevations referenced. Be certain that constructors know they may learn about specific project requirements, including options selected from the report, *only* from the design drawings and specifications. Remind constructors that they may

perform their own studies if they want to, and *be sure to allow enough time* to permit them to do so. Only then might you be in a position to give constructors the information available to you, while requiring them to at least share some of the financial responsibilities stemming from unanticipated conditions. Conducting prebid and preconstruction conferences can also be valuable in this respect.

## Read Responsibility Provisions Closely

Some client representatives, design professionals, and constructors do not realize that geotechnical engineering is far less exact than other engineering disciplines. That lack of understanding has nurtured unrealistic expectations that have resulted in disappointments, delays, cost overruns, claims, and disputes. To confront that risk, geotechnical engineers commonly include explanatory provisions in their reports. Sometimes labeled "limitations," many of these provisions indicate where geotechnical engineers' responsibilities begin and end, to help others recognize their own responsibilities and risks. *Read these provisions closely.* Ask questions. Your geotechnical engineer should respond fully and frankly.

## Geoenvironmental Concerns Are Not Covered

The personnel, equipment, and techniques used to perform an environmental study – e.g., a "phase-one" or "phase-two" environmental site assessment – differ significantly from those used to perform a geotechnical-engineering study. For that reason, a geotechnical-engineering report does not usually relate any environmental findings, conclusions, or recommendations; e.g., about the likelihood of encountering underground storage tanks or regulated contaminants. *Unanticipated subsurface environmental problems have led to project failures.* If you have not yet obtained your own environmental information, ask your geotechnical consultant for risk-management guidance. As a general rule, *do not rely on an environmental report prepared for a different client, site, or project, or that is more than six months old.*

## Obtain Professional Assistance to Deal with Moisture Infiltration and Mold

While your geotechnical engineer may have addressed groundwater, water infiltration, or similar issues in this report, none of the engineer's services were designed, conducted, or intended to prevent uncontrolled migration of moisture – including water vapor – from the soil through building slabs and walls and into the building interior, where it can cause mold growth and material-performance deficiencies. Accordingly, *proper implementation of the geotechnical engineer's recommendations will not of itself be sufficient to prevent moisture infiltration.* Confront the risk of moisture infiltration by including building-envelope or mold specialists on the design team. *Geotechnical engineers are not building-envelope or mold specialists.*



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## **GENERAL COMMENTS**

### **BASIS OF GEOTECHNICAL REPORT**

This report has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted geotechnical engineering practices to assist in the design and/or evaluation of this project. If the project plans, design criteria, and other project information referenced in this report and utilized by SME to prepare our recommendations are changed, the conclusions and recommendations contained in this report are not considered valid unless the changes are reviewed, and the conclusions and recommendations of this report are modified or approved in writing by our office.

The discussions and recommendations submitted in this report are based on the available project information, described in this report, and the geotechnical data obtained from the field exploration at the locations indicated in the report. Variations in the soil and groundwater conditions commonly occur between or away from sampling locations. The nature and extent of the variations may not become evident until the time of construction. If significant variations are observed during construction, SME should be contacted to reevaluate the recommendations of this report. SME should be retained to continue our services through construction to observe and evaluate the actual subsurface conditions relative to the recommendations made in this report.

In the process of obtaining and testing samples and preparing this report, procedures are followed that represent reasonable and accepted practice in the field of soil and foundation engineering. Specifically, field logs are prepared during the field exploration that describe field occurrences, sampling locations, and other information. Samples obtained in the field are frequently subjected to additional testing and reclassification in the laboratory and differences may exist between the field logs and the report logs. The engineer preparing the report reviews the field logs, laboratory classifications, and test data and then prepares the report logs. Our recommendations are based on the contents of the report logs and the information contained therein.

### **REVIEW OF DESIGN DETAILS, PLANS, AND SPECIFICATIONS**

SME should be retained to review the design details, project plans, and specifications to verify those documents are consistent with the recommendations contained in this report.

### **REVIEW OF REPORT INFORMATION WITH PROJECT TEAM**

Implementation of our recommendations may affect the design, construction, and performance of the proposed improvements, along with the potential inherent risks involved with the proposed construction. The client and key members of the design team, including SME, should discuss the issues covered in this report so that the issues are understood and applied in a manner consistent with the owner's budget, tolerance of risk, and expectations for performance and maintenance.

### **FIELD VERIFICATION OF GEOTECHNICAL CONDITIONS**

SME should be retained to verify the recommendations of this report are properly implemented during construction. This may avoid misinterpretation of our recommendations by other parties and will allow us to review and modify our recommendations if variations in the site subsurface conditions are encountered.

### **PROJECT INFORMATION FOR CONTRACTOR**

This report and any future addenda or other reports regarding this site should be made available to prospective contractors prior to submitting their proposals for their information only and to supply them with facts relative to the subsurface evaluation and laboratory test results. If the selected contractor encounters subsurface conditions during construction, which differ from those presented in this report, the contractor should promptly describe the nature and extent of the differing conditions in writing and SME should be notified so that we can verify those conditions. The construction contract should include provisions for dealing with differing conditions and contingency funds should be reserved for potential problems during earthwork and foundation construction. We would be pleased to assist you in developing the contract provisions based on our experience.

The contractor should be prepared to handle environmental conditions encountered at this site, which may affect the excavation, removal, or disposal of soil; dewatering of excavations; and health and safety of workers. Any Environmental Assessment reports prepared for this site should be made available for review by bidders and the successful contractor.

### **THIRD PARTY RELIANCE/REUSE OF THIS REPORT**

This report has been prepared solely for the use of our Client for the project specifically described in this report. This report cannot be relied upon by other parties not involved in the project, unless specifically allowed by SME in writing. SME also is not responsible for the interpretation by other parties of the geotechnical data and the recommendations provided herein.



*Passionate People Building  
and Revitalizing our World*

